FOREIGN
BROADCAST
INFORMATION
SERVICE

Daily Report

Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-238
Monday
12 December 1988

Daily Report
Latin America

FBIS-LAT-88-238 CONTENTS *12 December 1988*

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not previously disseminated in electronic form.

CARIBBEAN

Cuba

Statement Issued on USSR Earthquake Aid *[Havana Radio]* 1
  Humane, Moral Efforts Cited *[Havana Radio]* 1
  First Plasma Shipment Sent *[Havana TV]* 3
  Doctors, Equipment En Route *[Havana Radio]* 3
Castro Delivers Armed Forces Day Speech *[Havana International]* 3

Dominican Republic

Jorge Blanco Allowed 30 Visitors Per Day *[Santo Domingo Radio]* 16

Grenada

NNP Convention Postponed Due to Blaize Illness *[CANA]* 17

Haiti

Discussion Held on Cedha Draft Decree *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
UPD Issues Press Release on Human Rights Week *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 17
Agency Doctor Arrested in Dominican Republic *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18
'Zombie' Checks Paid to Dead Investigated *[Port-au-Prince Radio]* 18

Montserrat

Britain's Timothy Eggar Arrives for Talks *[CANA]* 18

MEXICO

Salinas on Need for Sound Economic Base *[Mexico City TV]* 20
Government Grants Asylum to Venezuelans *[AFP]* 20
Committee Established To Promote New Party *[UNOMASUNO 5 Dec]* 20
Bank Reports Jan-Nov Inflation Figure *[Mexico City TV]* 20
Police Confiscate Colombian Cocaine Shipment *[Mexico City TV]* 20

CENTRAL AMERICA

Costa Rica

8 Dec Border Incident With Panama Reported *[ACAN]* 21
Joint Border Patrols With Nicaragua Begin *[ACAN]* 21
Authorities Arrest Man Wanted in United States *[San Jose Radio]* 21
Cocaine Seized, 6 Colombians Arrested *[San Jose Radio]* 21

El Salvador

Duarte Returns From Mexico in 'Better Health' *[San Salvador TV]* 21
FMLN Attacks El Roblar Communications Center *[San Salvador TV]* 22
Army Reports 17 FMLN Casualties in Morazan *[San Salvador TV]* 22
Discovery of 22 Guerrilla Bodies Reported *[San Salvador TV]* 22
UDN To Abstain From Presidential Elections *[EL MUNDO 7 Dec]* 23
PDC Official Accuses ARENA of Fraud Plans *[San Salvador TV]* 23

Nicaragua

Communique Issued on 'Hijacked' Helicopter *[BARRICADA 9 Dec]* 24
    Plans To Return Helicopter *[BARRICADA 9 Dec]* 24
Murupuchi Post 'Harassed' by Honduras 7 Dec *[ACAN]* 24
Ortega Condolences to Gorbachev Published *[BARRICADA 9 Dec]* 24
GDR Sends Relief Aid for Hurricane Victims *[Managua Radio]* 25

Panama

Ritter Comments on L.A. Parliament Meeting *[Panama City TV]* 25
    Noriega Meets Parliamentarians *[LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL 11 Dec]* 25
Seineldin's Wife Denies 'Foreign Intervention' *[LA REPUBLICA 9 Dec]* 26
Susan Davis in 'Campaign' Against Attache *[CRITICA 8 Dec]* 26
Paper Links Maisto With Philippines Violence *[LA REPUBLICA 7 Dec]* 26
Guarantee for 'Honest, Democratic' Elections *[Panama City TV]* 27
PPA Official on PALA, Upcoming Convention *[Panama City TV]* 27
PPA Inside Political Maneuvering Examined *[Panama City TV]* 27
Planning Minister Discusses Foreign Debt *[ACAN]* 28
Opposition Legislator Views Economic Situation *[Panama City TV]* 28
Legislator Criticizes Lack of Canal Planning *[Panama City TV]* 29
Colon Free Zone Increases Trade Volume *[Panama City TV]* 29

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina

Nicaraguan Vice President To Arrive 13 Dec *[TELAM]* 30
Embassy on Uprising, Panamanian Regime's Response *[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 11 Dec]* 30
Corps Commander Denies Caridi Retirement Plans *[TELAM]* 30
Battalion, Brigade Commanders Appointed 30
    101st Arsenal *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 30
    10th Mechanized Infantry *[NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS]* 31
    2d Armored Cavalry *[TELAM]* 31
    6th Mechanized Regiment *[TELAM]* 31
* Malnutrition Seen in Rural, Urban Areas *[EL NUEVO PERIODISTA 13 Oct]* 31

Bolivia

Press Union To Protest Presence of U.S. Troops *[La Paz Radio]* 34
Congress: Garcia Meza 'In Contempt of the Law' *[Madrid EFE]* 34
Drug Traffickers, Informers Clash in San Ramon *[PRESENCIA 4 Dec]* 35
Antidrug Force Unit Destroys Cocaine Laboratory *[La Paz Radio]* 35
National Reserves, Treasury Surplus Reported *[EL DIARIO 30 Nov]* 35

Brazil

Sarney Sends Solidarity Telegram to Gorbachev *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 35
Iraq Wants License To Manufacture Tucano Planes *[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 7 Dec]* 35
National Congress Approves 1989 National Budget *[Rio de Janeiro TV]* 35

Chile

Colombia's Londono on Antarctic Treaty, Narcotics *[Santiago Radio]* 35
ANALISIS Director Cardenas Goes to Ecuador *[Santiago Radio]* 36
Party for Democracy Opens National Congress *[Madrid EFE]* 36
Army Deputy Commander Warns Communist Party *[DYN]* 36
Child's Hand Amputated After Handling Bomb *[Santiago Radio]* 37
* Yes Supporters Regroup After Plebiscite *[QUE PASA 3 Nov]* 37

Colombia

- President Addresses Nation on Human Rights *[Bogota TV]* 39
- Government Refuses Mediators in Rebel Talks *[Bogota TV]* 40
- Army Attacks M-19 Camps Where Peace Talks Held *[Madrid EFE]* 41
- Commander: Army Fighting Rebels 'To The End' *[Bogota TV]* 41
- UC-ELN Letter on Kidnapped Soldiers Release *[Radio Patria Libre]* 41
- Military Men Charged With Negligence in Segovia *[Bogota TV]* 42
- Former Officials Killed in Puerto Wilches *[Bogota TV]* 42
- Government Unable To Secure Loan From Japan *[Bogota TV]* 42
- * 1989 Agrarian Reform Plans Outlined *[EL TIEMPO 2 Nov]* 42
- * Engineering Projects Affected by Extortion *[EL COLOMBIANO 25 Oct]* 44

Ecuador

- Government Announces New Anti-inflation Plan *[Hamburg DPA]* 46
- Venezuela Provides $25 Million To Pay IDB *[Quito Radio]* 46

Paraguay

- Police Prevent Political Video, Panel Discussion *[Asuncion Radio]* 46
- Police Arrest Radio Caritas Reporter in Caacupe *[EL DIARIO 8 Dec]* 47
- Arrest of Social, Political Leaders Reported *[EL DIARIO 8 Dec]* 47
  - More Arrests *[HOY 10 Dec]* 47
  - Arrests To 'Behead' March *[HOY 10 Dec]* 47
  - More on Human Rights March *[EL DIARIO 11 Dec]* 48
  - Demonstration Repressed *[ULTIMA HORA 10 Dec]* 48
  - List of Detainees Released *[EL DIARIO 11 Dec]* 48
  - Journalists 'Unjustly Attacked' *[EL DIARIO 11 Dec]* 49
- Central Bank Proposes New Exchange Rate *[HOY 10 Dec]* 49
  - Inflationary Money Printing *[HOY 10 Dec]* 50
  - BCP Economic Warning *[HOY 10 Dec]* 51
- Police Break Up Drug Ring, Seize Cocaine *[ULTIMA HORA 10 Dec]* 51

Peru

- President Hails Gorbachev's Address to UN *[Lima TV]* 52
- Garcia Receives Soviet Fish Industry Minister *[Lima TV]* 52
- Garcia on Adjustment of Dollar Exchange Rate *[Lima TV]* 52
- Suspects in Naval Attache Death Arrested *[Lima TV]* 53
- Villanueva Seeks Media Support Against Terrorism *[Lima TV]* 53
- Shining Path Guerrillas Kill 2 More Engineers *[Madrid EFE]* 53
- Emergency State Declared in Several Provinces *[Lima TV]* 53
- Former President Bustamante Hospitalized *[Lima Radio]* 53
- Electroperu Says Partial Outages To Continue *[Lima Radio]* 53

Venezuela

- Perez Asked To Mediate in Panamanian Crisis *[Buenos Aires REUTER]* 54
- Socialist Leaders Visit President-Elect *[Caracas TV]* 54
- Perez, Gil To Visit Three OPEC Countries *[Caracas TV]* 55
- European Countries, Canada Planning To Invest *[EL NACIONAL 2 Dec]* 55

Suriname

- Arron-Led Delegation Ends Netherlands Visit *[Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT 5 Dec]* 55
- Refugees Want To Return From French Guiana *[Paramaribo Radio]* 56
- Bouterse Warns of Army Unrest; Scores Lawsuits *[Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD 3 Dec]* 56
- Activist Accused of Plotting Against Government *[Paramaribo Radio]* 57

Cuba

Statement Issued on USSR Earthquake Aid
FL0912221588 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2102 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] After sending a message to Comrade Gorbachev offering Cuba's cooperation for the reconstruction of devasted areas, the Government of Cuba has learned that the death toll is in the tens of thousands, much higher than what was originally estimated, and it is likely that a considerable number of people have been injured and will require medical services. Because of this, the Government of Cuba has also offered to send plasma and doctors to help the affected population.

The Soviet Government today expressed its appreciation and accepted Cuba's cooperation in this task. The government said that the magnitude of the damage requires international support.

A statement issued by Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Cuban Councils of State and Ministers, also said that the Soviet Government has expressed its great appreciation for Cuba's gesture.

In his statement on cooperation with the Soviet Union in regard to the earthquake that struck the Socialist Republic of Armenia, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro says that volunteer blood donations will be received in the capital of the Republic in order to send plasma to the USSR and make available any additional amount that may be necessary. The decision to limit these donations to Havana City is based on the fact that the best conditions exist here for the urgent processing of such donations and it is expected that these donations will be sufficient for the proposed objectives.

In his statement on Cuba's cooperation with the USSR in response to the earthquake, Fidel says that it is certain that there will be an overwhelming response from doctors for this noble mission, even more than is required, and thus only a small percentage need be selected.

He also said that a contingent of construction workers will be sent to the USSR as soon as minimum conditions have been created for their work.

Of course the most urgent matter is medical care, he said. The high honor of cooperating with the beloved people of the Soviet Union means our country must undertake this participation with the strictest of urgency, organization, and efficiency, adds the statement.

Signed: Fidel Castro Ruz.

Humane, Moral Efforts Cited
FL1012022188 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 2334 GMT 9 Dec 88

["Last minute report" by Jose Luis Garcia during "Exclusivo" program hosted by Daniel Torres]

[Text] [Garcia] We are at the Marianao Blood Bank in Havana City. Comrades have been gathering here since this afternoon to donate blood for the brother people of Armenia. Our last minute report is that our Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has just arrived. We'll turn on our microphones to listen to his remarks.

[Castro] We had offered to send them construction workers, but then I read the news reports on the number of victims and that they were mobilizing doctors. They were also mobilizing, gathering, asking for plasma.

We offered them just yesterday, we offered to send them a medical contingent and to send plasma. They responded to all our proposals early this morning by accepting our offer. The disaster is so extensive that they need international assistance.

That's why I issued a statement today stating these things, that the Soviets had accepted our cooperation. They expressed their appreciation and accepted our cooperation. We will immediately send some plasma and we are urgently organizing the medical brigade.

I was explaining that to replace the blood that we are sending from our reserves and so that we have enough for any additional needs, we would accept volunteer blood donations. I think this has started....

[Unidentified journalist, interrupting] Yes, it has begun spontaneously.

[Castro] The idea was that it begin tomorrow, then this afternoon... [changes thought] That's what I can tell you.

They expressed their appreciation, their profound appreciation for Cuba's gesture. A plane left today with part of the assistance.

[Journalist] Was it a Cuban plane?

[Castro] The plane that departed was Soviet, but a Cuban plane will be leaving immediately. It's an IL-66 which arrived this afternoon. It is being prepared to send the rest of the plasma and part of a field hospital. It is possible that the day after tomorrow one of our planes will also depart with the medical brigade.

The Soviets said that their passenger planes, their transport planes [words indistinct] but in reality they can't wait. I think that if we are going to send the medical brigade we must send it right away. They would have to wait to send planes. I imagine that Aeroflot is currently in the process of a colossal task.

We will send a transport plane with the field hospital and the rest of the material. We will also send an IL-62 plane with the medical contingent which....

[Journalist, interrupting] It's now being formed?

[Castro] It's being formed now as quickly as possible. Most of the staff will come from Occidente and some of the eastern areas.

The problem is that if we were to send the blood the people are willing to donate, we'd have some left over. We are going to take the donations in the capital. We will receive it there because the conditions are the best to receive and process the blood quickly and very orderly. We don't want... [change's thought] It's very important that we don't have a massive number of people showing up at the blood banks. We have to have some guidelines on this. I'm sure that there will be tens of thousands of people who will want to give blood, but it has to be done in an orderly fashion. I'm certain that a lot of people who want to donate blood will not be able to do so.

The same applies to doctors. There are many doctors who will want to participate, but it will not be possible for all doctors to participate.

There are also a large number of construction workers who want to participate and it won't be possible to send everyone. However, we will send a strong contingent of construction workers there.

This is not only a practical procedure; it's also a human and moral thing to do. It's an expression of solidarity. Of course the USSR is a large country and I imagine that all the republics are making a great effort to help. We can't underestimate the practical value of what our doctors or our plasma can do there. I see this as a moral expression, an expression of solidarity from our people to the Soviet people.

I think it would be impossible... [changes thought] They would not need all we could send. We have several times the amount of plasma they need there even though the disaster has been very great. One of the worst characteristics of the disaster is that the number of deaths will be considerably higher than the number of injured.

There are few injuries in those buildings that collapsed entirely. [Words indistinct] about 90 percent of the people. That's why we say that the number of injured is relatively low in comparison to the number of fatalities, which rises with each new report we receive. Today they were saying that the number of victims may have risen to 100,000. That was today. Hopefully that's not the case. However, if the reports are true that are coming in, then what occurred is dramatic, incredible. It's as if an atomic bomb has fallen on Armenia.

[Journalist] The pictures we have seen on television are terrible

[Castro] Have you seen some pictures? I haven't had much time to watch television but the pictures that are shown and the descriptions given indicate that many buildings have been totally destroyed. I think that one city disappeared from the map and two cities with about 100,000 residents were severly affected.

That's why it's possible that the number of dead [corrects himself] deaths may be very high. This news was received today. By this afternoon, they were reporting 100,000 deaths. However, the number of injured is probably much lower than that. That's why I tell you that there is no exact figure as to how much plasma is needed. The Soviets are also sending plasma. That's why I say that the people may be willing to send much more plasma than is needed.

[Journalist] Then the movement will have to be organized.

[Castro] It has to be very organized.

[Journalist] Especially in...

[Castro, interrupting] The party is working on this because quite a lot of blood will be received daily at the blood banks. People will go only to the blood banks to replace the reserves. If it's necessary to use our reserves, we'll send them as soon as possible. If we know that more is needed, we can accelerate the process of producing plasma and send it.

[Journalist] Thank you very much.

[Garcia] Commander, I have a last question. Is there a special purpose for your visit here at the blood bank?

[Castro] Here at the blood bank? Yes, I'm going to give blood.

[Journalist] Thank you very much.

[Castro] That's the reason.

[Journalist] Thank you very much, Commander.

[Garcia] Ok Daniel...

[Castro, interrupting] I'm going to see how everything is going. I want to see how everything is progressing. I want to talk a little bit with the people and donate some blood. I want to help like the rest of the people.

[Garcia] That's very important. Thank you very much for these remarks to Radio Rebelde.

First Plasma Shipment Sent

FL1012133588 Havana Television Service in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] A few hours ago, Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, went to the Jose Marti International Airport. Here, the first shipment of over 14 tons of plasma was sent as internationalist aid to those injured in the earthquake which occurred in the Republic of Armenia.

[Begin recording] [Reporter] It is said that this could represent a new kind of internationalist aid—in other words, aid from a small country to a country such as the USSR which has given us so much aid.

[Castro] [Words indistinct] a form of cooperation. (?Like) the message said, a new kind of cooperation among all countries. Even small countries can participate in this, not just large countries which is what I wanted to say. (?I think) that our aid is very modest, it is an expression of our desire of [words indistinct]. I think it is a [word indistinct] principle, because there are a lot of catastrophies in the world. This creates (?a) new kind of principle in [word indistinct] relations. It is very much in line with the policy of peace that the USSR is carrying out. I think that this is a way of expressing [word indistinct]. There are some countries which have more resources than others, but that in situations such as this one, I think that everyone should make an effort. Gorbachev said that [passage indistinct] fatal disaster, international aid. (?This) is an expression of a principle. Since the Soviet Union is a large country, and I thought that workers would go there from all parts of the Soviet Union. So, I thought that in that we could cooperate in that area.

[Reporter] Anyway, is it possible that the aid will also include construction workers and equipment [words indistinct]?

[Castro] But that will be later. Right now, the urgent thing is [words indistinct]. Afterwards, certain guidelines must be set up for [word indistinct]. We will organize. Just imagine, there is no heating or anything there! You can image the tragedy in that—5 below zero! You can't leave people out on the streets. I imagine they are moving them to another place. The number of people is large, there must be hundreds of thousands of people.

[Reporter] Must the donations that have been asked for be essentially from Havana, Commander?

[Castro] Yes, I say that it must be Havana City because it is the one that has the best conditions for receiving and processing. Furthermore, I think that it can supply enough to cover the... [shifts thought] we are taking the reserve plasma, they may need more. To date, we don't know how much they need. Therefore, it would not make any sense to get donations from the whole country. The same conditions do not exist throughout the whole country to process the amount [word indistinct]. Here, we have the best conditions to process it quickly, and not [words indistinct] some quantity. If we do it now throughout the whole country, and we get carried away by the good will of all donors... [shifts thought] I explained it in that declaration because I imagine that in Santiago, Camaguey, Holguin, and all the provinces everyone wants to donate blood. However, we may not be able to process all that blood. It would not make sense to do it like that. To date, we do not know the amount needed. I imagine they have some avaialable. No one knows the number of injured. I think that blood will always be useful, for one patient or another. I am sure that tens of thousands of people will want to donate blood. However, we must not collect more than what we can use.

The number of doctors who want to go is a lot larger than the actual number we will be able to mobilize. The same is true for the construction workers, the number wanting to go is larger than what we will be able to mobilize. The problem is that we have to do things quickly. I think we must do this with the most urgency, organization, and efficiency. [end recording]

Doctors, Equipment En Route

FL1012190588 Havana Radio Rebelde Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] An IL-76 cargo plane of Cubana de Aviacion left this morning for the USSR with 12,000 units of blood plasma, and with the basic parts for a field hospital which will contribute to Cuba's solidarity aid for the victims of the earthquake.

Four medical specialists are also going to the Soviet Union on this flight. They are leaving ahead of the 150-member contingent to which they belong. The remainder of the contingent is scheduled to depart early tomorrow morning, Sunday, to the disaster zones.

Castro Delivers Armed Forces Day Speech

PA0812150688 Havana International Service in Spanish 2210 GMT 5 Dec 88

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at Havana's Revolution Square marking the 32d anniversary of the "Granma" landing, the 30th anniversary of the FAR, and the ceremony awarding Havana City Province the Ready for Defense Banner—live]

[Text] Comrades of the FAR and of the Territorial Troops Militia, Compatriots of the capital and of all Cuba:

Today, holds special significance. Not only do we commemorate—even though it's 3 days later for reasons that you know—the 32d anniversary of our glorious FAR, but our capital also receives, along with other state organizations, the Ready for Defense, First Stage Banner. It was also by chance that only 24 hours ago we met in the brother country of Mexico. We met in the exact place from which the Granma left. [applause]. That was also 32 years ago. Today is not only a solemn day; I also think that today is a day for reflection. I think that no revolutionary should have any doubts of the need for this effort. Why do we go through so much sweat, sacrifice, and take away days and unending hours from our rest and studies, and from healthy distractions? We do this to strengthen our defense. I think that this is a matter of the utmost importance.

We are a small country. We are an island country which is located many thousands of kilometers away from any potential ally, or true allies. We are located 90 miles from the imperialist power, not only the most powerful of the world but also the most arrogant, imperious, and proud. Like we have said on other occasions, we are not only 90 miles away, but we are just a few millimeters or micrometers away. There, where they illegally occupy a portion of our territory, that empire is still, and it will probably continue being for a long time, an empire—a powerful one.

We are the first socialist country in the Western Hemisphere, and we are the first socialist country in Latin America. We were the last ones to be liberated from Spain. We were also the first to be liberated from Yankee imperialism... [interrupted by applause]—the first to establish complete authority over its riches, the first to disobey the empire's orders, the first to challenge it, and the first to carry out the most intense of revolutions with new ideas, values. We were also the first to lift the banners of the workers, peasants, and humble people and impose their claims and rights.

We are the first to set this example and it corresponds to the era of the historic evolution of the peoples of Latin America. We have maintained those banners and that attitude for almost 30 years. The empire will never forgive this. It's not just a matter of injuring the pride of the empire; it's also a profound injury to its imperialist interests. It is a symbol—a road being followed—of rebellion, liberty, independence and the empire will never cease in its attempts to crush that symbol, that example, that road. In one way or another, as long as the empire exists, this is and will continue to be its goal.

Even if one day relations would formally improve between Socialist Cuba and the empire, this would not cause the empire to let go of its idea of crushing the Cuban revolution and they don't hide this. Their theorists have explained this. It has been explained by the empire's philosophy defenders.

There are some who say that it is better to make certain changes in policy toward Cuba to penetrate the country, to weaken it, to even destroy it, if possible. Others think that the more belligerent they are toward us, the more active and effective Cuba will be in its struggles in the Latin American and world scenes.

If something is the essence of Cuban revolutionary thought, if something is totally clear in the awareness of our people, it is the privilege of being the first in these directions and it is the awareness that we will never be able to, as long as the empire exists, lower our guard, to disregard our defense. [applause]

I say this because some perhaps may ask themselves if it wouldn't be better to dedicate these energies, these efforts, and resources to the construction of socialism, to the development of the country. My answer is—and anyone may respond this way—yes, it would be better to dedicate those funds, those energies, and those resources to the development of the country, but it would be nothing but an illusion, a grave illusion, a criminal illusion because that is the price our people have to pay for their revolution, for their liberty, their independence, their most sacred rights. It is the price throughout history that many peoples have had to pay for their right to exist. In this case, it's not just a matter of existing; it's a matter of existing for a purpose and for something.

We cannot ignore the realities and I don't think that our people could ever forgive themselves or cease to pay a very high and fatal price if someday this reality was forgotten. It's not that we're pessimistic. We're simply realistic. It's not that we are against peace and detente. It's not that we are against peaceful coexistence between different political and socioeconomic systems. It's because we simply are and have to be realistic.

Realism tells us that as long as the empire exists and as long as worthy people are on this island, a revolutionary people on this island... [interrupted by applause] there will be dangers for our fatherland. We hope that some day we will never have to stoop so low or become so unworthy that we reject our independence, our liberty, our most sacred and beautiful rights. [crowd applauds and shouts: No! No!]

We contemplate... [interrupted by indistinct chanting]

We see with satisfaction and sincerely support the Soviet Union's peace policy. As you know, in the remarks we have been making in the last few years, for us peace, detente, and disarmament are irreversibly associated with the possibilities of development for a large portion of humankind, with the possibilities of overcoming the large economic crisis crushing these people—millions of people in the world—with the possibility of establishing the new international economic order, and the possibility for guaranteeing a more just future for these countries.

The matter of humankind's survival is an issue that concerns us all. Peace is an issue that concerns us all. Even survival and peace have different meanings for some countries. There are two kinds of survival and two kinds of peace. The survival of the rich and the survival of the poor. The peace of the rich and peace of the poor.

In the rich world there is very little infant mortality, in the rich world there is very little malnutrition, in the rich world people rarely die of illnesses that today are preventable through technology, science, and preventive measures. In the rich world there is little illiteracy or the type that other countries have. In the rich world there are few shantytowns. In the rich world life expectancy is of 70 years of age or more. In the rich world sometimes they even destroy foodstuffs—needed by billions of people in the world—simply so they can sell them at a higher price, in order to increase prices. In the rich world there are subsidies, not only for agriculture to compete with Third World countries and their goods, but also subsidies for the unemployed, of which the capitalist societies intrinsically have so many.

Of course, when we speak of peace we cannot stop thinking about all of those who die everyday in that Third World I referred to. Thus, history, books, and political statements make reference to the number of dead and victims in World War I and World War II. I remember that it was said that some 20 million people died in World War I and some 40 million died in World War II. Books refer to Hiroshima and Nagasaki nuclear bombs and mankind is still is by the thought that 120,000 people died in a single day or the day after. Hundreds of thousands suffered the consequences of radiation after that brutal experiment which the Yankees carried out over the Japanese cities.

Well, as we have said before, 40,000 children, who could be saved, die in the Third World every day. Some 120,000 children, who could be saved, die in the Third World every 3 days —these are statistical figures released by United Nations organizations—every 3 days. As many children under 5 years of age alone die as the ones who died as a result of any of the bombs thrown over Hiroshima or Nagasaki. These are children under 5 years of age alone.

We could consider the ones who die later or suffer the terrible consequences of malnutrition and hunger, which not only shorten lives but hinder the mental development of tens of millions of people. They are worse consequences than those of the radiation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. We are speaking of children alone. If we include adults in those countries where life expectancy is half of that of rich countries, as many or more people die each year than those who died in World War I.

More can be said. As a result of the colonial looting to which our countries were subjected to, as a result of neocolonialism, as a result of unequal trade, as a result of poverty, as a result of the existence of unjust relations in the world, as a result of imperialist policies, as many human lives are lost in the Third World each year as the ones who died during World War II.

This is why I say there are two kinds of survival and two kinds of peace. As long as there is injustice in the world, as long as there is neocolonialist, imperialist oppression in the world, as long as there is this looting, there will be two kinds of survival and two kinds of peace, and also, two survival and peace concepts; the socialist conception and the capitalist conception.

We know how socialism views peace, but we also know how imperialism can view peace. Imperialism has developed Armed Forces to achieve world domination. Imperialists have military bases in all corners of the world, powerful naval and air fleets, millions of soldiers. The military conception of imperialism was designed to establish its order in the world, its peace, like the Roman peace of another time. Its military conception was designed to maintain its domination over the world. This is a reality and we must be realistic.

There are no socialist fleets in the world or military bases, naval or air fleets. There has never been a socialist conception for the domination of the world.

This is why, the news that there may be peace, that there may be reductions in nuclear armaments, that there could be detente between the United States and the Soviet Union, doesn't necessarily mean that there is going to be peace for us, that there is going to be safety for us, or for other revolutionary peoples, or simply independent Third World countries.

How does the U.S. imperialist government interpret peace? How does the empire interpret peace? It is very possible, it is almost certain that the way the empire conceives of peace is peace among the powerful, peace with the Soviet Union, and war with small socialist, revolutionary, progressive, or simply independent countries of the Third World.

Peace with powerful and overt or covert wars, dirty wars such as the one in Nicaragua, or the genocidal war such as the one in El Salvador, or low-intensity conflict wars—as they call it—in other countries. This is why it is very important to ask, what does the empire understand by detente and peace? We cannot harbor any kind of hopes. This is why I said—and I affirm—that our people can never lower their guard. [applause]

The defense matter—it is very important that we know it—was never handled by anyone else but us. [applause] Nuclear missiles never defended us. We do not lose or win if one type of missiles or another is dismantled, even if there is universal nuclear disarmament—something that unfortunately doesn't appear to be close—because our defense never depended on short-, intermediate-, or long-range missiles.

Once we had intermediate-range missiles here in our territory. They were withdrawn from our country a long time ago. We have not counted on the defense of any kind of missiles for a long time. But if the day comes when all missiles disappear we would be glad for the countries that are being threatened by those missiles, we would be glad for mankind that lives or survives, for mankind that enjoys peace or another very relative concept of peace. This, however, would not change in the least the military threats on our fatherland.

The empire will continue to have powerful Naval and Air Force fleets, powerful Armies, and military bases in many parts of the world. Up to now, not a single word has been said to the effect that the empire is going to reduce its Naval and Air Force fleets, its military bases, or its Armies in the world. They will continue to threaten small countries, Third World countries, with or without nuclear weapons.

Nevertheless, this does not discourage us. We are not discouraged because we know there are remedies for those threats. We know that countries, even small ones, are capable of fighting against that powerful empire. The most recent and unforgetable example is Vietnam. [applause] Let's say that this is the clearest example, but contemporary history has shown that no matter how powerful a country is, no matter how sophisticated its weapons are, it is not capable of dominating, it is not capable of crushing a country that is willing to fight. In a smaller scale we can see, for example, the Salvadoran people who have resisted a flood of imperialistic resources, weapons, and training in the genocidal war being waged in that country for the past 8 years. In El Salvador, in Nicaragua, everywhere there is an unquestionable truth, countries that are determined to fight are invincible. [applause] Even Grenada, even Grenada, [repeats] small and with a modest population—if the revolutionary process had not committed suicide there—even Grenada would had fought and would have been invincible. [applause] Sooner or later imperialists would have had to withdraw, even there, in a country of 400 sq km and a little over 100,000 inhabitants.

People also learned to defend themselves. They learned this a long time ago and they defended themselves without hesitation. They defended themselves from the imperialist's dirty war, they defended themselves from the mercenary Giron invasion. Already at that time there were hundreds of thousands of men and women willing to defend the country. They defended themselves heroically during the October crisis. When the intermediate-range missiles left, our people continue to defend themselves, continued to apply the principle that the defense of our country corresponds to our own people. [applause] Absolutely nobody got discouraged here. Absolutely nobody got discouraged here. [repeats] Not for a minute. Nobody surrendered here, as one of you just said. [applause] [Crowd chants: Let the born and the unborn know that we were born to win, but not to be defeated]

Our people assumed their task as they have throughout these 30 years. When the warmongering and aggressive administration was threatening to wipe us from the map, we used the highest limits of our conceptions of the defense of the revolution and of the country. Our people and Armed Forces, in line with the principles that led us to victory in Sierra Maestra, in the fight against the imperialist dirty war in the Escambray mountains, and in other places in the country, in the fight against the Giron mercenary attack, faced with the new dangers, created and implemented the concept of the war of all the peoples. [applause]

This concept is the one that makes us unconquerable, and invincible. It is what makes us act according to the deep conviction, the conviction based on realities, experience, and history, that no matter how powerful the empire is, no matter how sophisticated its weapons are, it will never be able to defeat us, it will never be able to make us give in, it will never be able to conquer us. [applause] Even if our territory was occupied physically, the country would never be conquered, people would never stop fighting, and our people would never stop winning. [applause]

The war of all the people means that, in order to conquer our territory and occupy our soil, imperialist forces would have to fight against millions of people and would have to pay with hundreds of thousands of lives, and even millions of lives, the attempt of conquering our soil, of crushing our freedom, our independence, and our revolution, without ever being able to achieve it.

This is not so only now. Other men in other lands, in other times, rather, [corrects himself] in other times in the history of our fatherland, perceived this situation. This is why Maceo wrote in another time, in another epoch—when we were not 10 million, when we were perhaps a tenth of what we are now, when we had a tenth of the discipline we have today, or a hundredth of the weapons we have today—he who attempts to take over Cuba will gather the dust of its soil flooded with blood if he doesn't die during the war. [applause] [crowd chants]

We can add to this marvelous idea, this extraordinary thought of Maceo, by saying that: He who attempts to take over Cuba will not be able to even gather the dust of our soil flooded with blood because he will die during the war. [applause]

No matter how powerful the empire may be, no matter how sophisticated its technology and weapons may be, it is not in a position to pay the price such a venture would cost. It is possible that they may not be willing to ever pay it, but we do know the price will be set with the sacred principle of the defense of our fatherland and our revolution. No matter how high it may be, we will always be willing to pay it. [applause]

That is what the concept war of the whole people means. That is the meaning of the principle that our people can never make the error of lowering their guard.

From this, one can deduce the need to continue investing hard work and resources, as well as to continue making sacrifices to strengthen our defense. Without defense there cannot be a fatherland. Without defense, there cannot be independence. Without defense, there cannot be freedom. Without defense, there cannot be dignity. Without defense, there cannot be revolution; and defense is something that can never be entrusted to others. Defense is something that a nation can only entrust to itself. That is what we have done for almost 30 years of revolution. [applause]

That is why today's ceremony has such a special meaning. This is the moment in which the combatants of our capital—men and women who will have to seize arms, or those who will have to maintain production and services in case of war—receive their banner declaring the capital ready for defense, first stage. [applause] It is not a game of war. These are not simple ceremonies. These are very serious matters. The matters which stand behind these efforts are very sacred matters. Imperialism, or the empire, cannot ignore that. That is why not for a single day, minute, or second—regardless of what it costs, or what must be sacrificed—must we stop paying attention to our defense. Our country's history can show what our people, the ideas of independence and freedom, and the ideas of revolution are capable of. I think few people, in such a short period of time, have written such significant pages of combat and heroism.

In its time, the Spanish Empire, the powerful Spain, did not recognize, or ignored, the strength of our people. What was Cuba's population in 68 [1868]? I don't have the exact figure right now, but I don't think it was greater than 1 million people. That war which began in Yara on 10 October, lasted 10 years, [and was fought] with great heroism. It was not the whole nation fighting against Spain. It was part of the nation against Spain. At that time, our society was still an enslaved society. Hundreds of thousands of men—men and women, but basically men—were enslaved. They were made to work in the sugarcane and coffee plantations, especially in the western part of the country. It is estimated that the number of slaves was approximately 300,000. A handfull of patriots and independent peasants, as well as slaves who joined them, began that war. During the first 10 years, the war did not reach the western part of the country; the people from the west did not participate in that struggle. The slaves were not freed. Furthermore, not only did Spain have hundreds of thousands of soldiers but it also had volunteers—the Spanish citizens who were residents in Cuba. Unfortunately, Spain could also count on part of the Cuban population to fight for it. I sincerely believe that one of the most heroic struggles of independence was the one our small nation carried out against a power, that back in those times was, very strong militarily. To gain their independence, the rest of the Latin American nations had to fight simultaneousely in a huge territory. In our small island, part of our nation fought by itself against that foreign power.

It is good to recall this fact on a day like today because the seed of today's dignity, rebelliousness, and patriotism was planted back then. It was planted in that struggle of Cespedes, Agramonte, Maximo Gomez, Maceo. Then it became the struggle of Marti, the struggle of some of these same patriots who had survived, and the struggle of many others leaders and combatants.

After almost 30 years, when the colonial power had been defeated, we all know the war was interrupted. The struggle for freedom was interrupted by Yankee intervention—intervention accompanied by deceit, hidden motives, and lies. This was an intervention which was supposed to be a liberating intervention for our country. It was the same kind of intervention which was used to take possession of Puerto Rico—which is still under the imperial yoke. This was the same type of intervention used to take possession of other territories, and imposed upon us was the Platt Amendment which allowed the opportunity to interfere in our country whenever intervention was deemed necessary. Also imposed upon us was a Naval base in one of the best bays of the country where it still remains, and neocolonialism in our fatherland.

But our people did not stop figthing. In the face of such complex factors, in which lies and deceit have played a large role, our workers and peasants fought against all the injustices brought about by the Yankee intervention, neocolonialism, and policy of handling our state, taking over our national resources, establishing huge latifundia, using our mines, and exploiting our country—a policy of contempt toward our people. They even thought that they had indoctrinated our people. They thought we had no other alternative but to think like them, and for us to do everything which was convenient for them. If the trend was to be antisocialist, we had to be antisocialists. If the trend was to be anticommunist, we had to be more anticommunist than anyone else. If the trend was to be racist, we had to be racists. If women's discrimination was the trend, we had to discriminate against women. If the trend was games, we had to be champions. If the trend was prostitution, our country had to have more prostitutes than any other place. If the trend was corruption and looting the state's finances, Cuba had to have more looting than anyone else. If the trend was capitalism, latifundismo, dabbling in politics, we had to be more capitalists, latifundists, and dabble in politics than anyone else. This country was insulted, underestimated, and scorned so much!

As far away as it was, who would have thought that this country, people—despite all that indoctrination, apparent docility, and submission—would have been capable of doing what they did. Who would have thought that it would have maintained its flag raised for 3 decades and would be capable of creating a force such as the one it has created. How could have they imagined that that mercenary Army was sufficient to keep our country dominated. They despised the heroism and intelligence of our nation so much! They were so incapable of seeing all the audacity harbored in our peoples' souls.

That is why, on an occasion such as this one, we can't help but to recall our most recent history. We must recall the few resources with which we began the struggle of this new phase of our history, the few resources with which in those times we organized the Moncada action, the few resources with which the Granma expedition was organized, as well as the small number of men with which we once again formed the liberating Army. The 25-month struggle in the Sierra Maestra ... [shifts thought] A few days ago, we marked the 30th anniversary of the most important battles, among the many which took place at that time. The military actions we were able to carry out with such minimal number of men, weapons, and ammunition seem incredible—they seemed like things of the imagination or fantasy. The truth of the matter is that our small Army, whose founding is marked today, was able to destroy Armed Forces which totalled 80,000. When that struggle ended, the total war weapons which our rebel Army had did not exceed 3,000.

This is a great lesson, a great lesson which should be taken into account now that we are millions, now that we have millions of weapons, now that we have tens and tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands of military cadres of one level or another with solid training, and now that we have incomparably more powerful, modern, and effective weapons. This is why, throughout the path we have traveled, what our people did to defend themselves was logical and nothing extraordinary—it was logical the way it crushed the dirty war which destroyed the mercenary invasion, in which it defied the empire by proclaiming socialism just before the mercenary landing, and the way it has withstood and dealt with all the risks. Especially a day such as today, it is appropriate to honor the heroism, decisiveness, and efficiency with which our people have fulfilled their sacred internationalist duties. [applause]

When we meet here in this square with the hundreds of thousands of men and women organized for the defense of the country, we cannot forget a truly extraordinary fact, a symbol of what our people stand for, and the levels of awareness they have reached, it is the presence of tens of thousands of internationalist combatants thousands and thousands of kilometers from our land. I believe it gives a good idea [applause] of the development of the defense capabilities of our country. I believe it gives a good idea of the spirit of our people, of their courage, and their heroism.

It is a truly extraordinary fact that when we were threatened, when the empire talked of crushing us, when the empire forced us to make an extraordinary effort in defense, our country did not stop fulfilling its internationalist duties. Although our country would have had enough reason to suspend its internationalist missions and withdraw its forces because of the threat that was falling upon us, we trusted our people and their combat capability so much, that we did not withdraw a single internationalist combatant from anywhere. [applause] Not only this but we were capable of facing difficult situations, situations we could call critical.

Not enough has been said, and perhaps it is not time to say everything that could be said. I believe that in the last 12 months, in the past year, our country wrote one of the most valiant and most extraordinary pages of internationalist spirit. This started less than 13 months ago with the crisis that came up in the People's Republic of Angola. Those were truly serious times.

It was a particularly difficult situation, for different reasons. We had already been carrying out our internationalist mission in our brother country for some 12 years. We were faithful to our duties throughout those years in which our presence in Angola was maintained. We weren't there to participate in their internal struggle because the internal problems of each country should be solved by each nation itself. Our presence was like a shield before the South African threat, which caused our entry into Angola in 1975 at the request of that country's leadership.

Once before we forced the South Africans to retreat to the border. In 1976, we had accumulated large forces that we later began to withdraw. When approximately one-half the total forces we had gathered in 1976 were withdrawn, the interventions of racist and fascist South Africa in Angola began again. We guarded, in the south of that country, a strategic line that was established according to the topography of the terrain and according to the communications required for defense. That line ran from the sea to the east. First it ran for some 300 km, later it reached some 700 km. We would have to find the exact figures, but we were extended from Namibe to Menongue, Namibe on the coast and Menongue in the interior of the country toward the east. We were some 250 km, approximately, from the border with Namibia.

The South Africans carried out their actions without ever reaching our lines. They intervened in the space that was between our lines and the border. Their principal actions consisted of carrying out a dirty war against Angola by arming counterrevolutionary groups. They now had a partnership with the United States. This situation lasted for years, but in all that time, the correlation of forces was in favor of the South Africans. Our forces were enough to defend those lines, but not to stop South African interventions in part of the Angolan territory.

That situation was prolonged for years—until 1987 when the crisis I spoke of began. This crisis began with an offensive organized by the FAPLA [People's Armed Forces for the Liberation of Angola] against a territory in southeast Angola, very far from the eastern end of our lines. In this offensive the Cubans were not participating, nor did they ever participate! This was not the first time. Another offensive had been carried out in 1985 in a place known today as Cuito Cuanavale. Cuito Cuanavale was 200 km east of the last point of the Cuban line, 200 km from Menongue. From there the FAPLA offensive was carried out in 1985 against UNITA [National Union for the Total Independence of Angola].

The South African troop intervention began toward the southeast when they had already advanced some 200 or 150 km, in that isolated region. It was very far from our lines, 350 km [as heard] from the last point on our lines, and they forced the FAPLA to retreat.

To tell you the truth, we had our opinions about those operations. One of our points of view is [corrects himself] was that those offensives could not be carried out without South African intervention. We had very clear, precise, and categorical points of views on this point. In 1986 this type of offensives were not realized. We said: If they want to carry out offensives like that in Angolan territory, which is a right of the Angolan Government, an undeniable right, the appropriate conditions must be created to prohibit South Africa from intervening. The appropriate conditions must be created to stop South Africa from intervening.

We told the ones who wanted those operations, or advised in favor of those operations, that they could not be carried out if the appropriate conditions to stop South Africa from intervening were not created. Our points of view were listened to in 1986; unfortunately they were not listened to enough in 1987. Things happened just as we had foreseen. In a given moment in those distant corners of east Angola, when the FAPLA offensives were being carried out successfully against UNITA, the South Africans intervened again with artillery, tanks, aviation, and troops.

However, in 1987 they didn't restrict themselves to a limited intervention. That intervention began in 1987 as it had done before in 1985 north of (Mabin). (Mabin) is such a distant place that not even our combat planes in Menongue could reach it.

I was saying that the South Africans didn't limit themselves to that, but they advanced in the direction of Cuito Cuanavale pursuing the FAPLA. They attempted to destroy the best grouping of South African [corrects himself] Angolan troops.

Cuito Cuanavale is 200 km east of Menongue, the most-eastern part of our line. There the South Africans tried to turn the war against Angola in their favor and in favor of the UNITA. That distant location was not the ideal place for great battles. The logistics and getting supplies there were very difficult. To get from Menongue to Cuito Cuanavale, you had to pass through 200 km of woods. The enemy had chosen the battleground that most suited them.

When this situation was created.... [changes thought] It was a situation that was actually created because our military points of view were not considered. This was a difficult situation that could prove decisive. Then everyone asked us to act. They asked us to try and prevent a disaster from taking place there. Everyone asks us this and everyone waits for Cuba to resolve the situation. But in truth, and in accordance with our estimation, the number of Cuban troops and the means available in Angola were not sufficient to resolve the situation. They were not enough.

There were not enough troops to defend a line that was more than 700 km long and, in addition, advance through 200 km of woods to the east to confront the problem. We ran the risk of making ourselves strong there and weak elsewhere. That's why the situation was clear to us from the start and we reached the conclusion that even though that problem could be resolved, it was indispensable to reinforce the troops to do this and apply an adequate military concept. The principle was that decisive battles should not take place in the territory chosen by the enemy. Decisive battles must take place in territory selected by our own forces and the enemy must be struck at their weak points, in truly strategic areas.

This crisis situation presented itself around November. I had just returned from the Soviet Union where I had attended their 70th anniversary. After being here a few days, I began to receive news about Angola. The situation had become very critical. The South Africans were in the outskirts of Cuito Cuanavale and the situation was difficult.

We could not lose a single minute. It was on 15 November of last year that we met with the FAR general staff and made the political and military decision to confront the situation and adopt the measures that were necessary. Anything else may have resulted in the likely annihilation of the best grouping of Angolan troops. The consequences of this on the survival of the People's Republic of Angola would have been unpredictable. This could even have resulted in a complicated situation for our own troops. This is why, after thinking about this carefully, the leaders of our country made the decision to reinforce troops and help resolve that serious problem that had been created. However, everything is not that easy; everything is not that simple.

A complex situation existed in the political area. On 7 December, the leader of the USSR, Comrade Gorbachev, would meet with President Reagan in Washington to discuss important topics related to international peace. It was the worst moment for a decision of this type to be made. The question was: Do we make the decision or do we face the consequences of allowing the South Africans to act with impunity and thus decide the outcome of the struggle in Angola?

To tell the truth, the leaders of our country and the leaders of the FAR did not hestiate for a second and the correct decision was made on 15 November 1987. The first thing we did was send the most experienced pilots of our Air Force to Angola. That was the first thing we did so that they could begin to conduct air strikes from the Menongue air base against the South African troops that besieged Cuito Cuanavale.

At the same time, we selected and sent the combat units and the necessary weapons to respond to that situation. We sent the material needed to make the ruin enemey plans.

The use of aviation had begun to have a certain affect; but it was not enough. It was necessary to fly a few advisors there. It was necessary to fly a group of advisors, officials, and cadres to Cuito Cuanavale. We also had to send artillerymen, tank troops, and technicians from the fields of weapons arms and equipment. We sent about 200 people to that area to support, primarily from a technical and advisory point of view, the Angolan forces. However, this was not enough and it was necessary to send by land, over those 200 km, tank, artillery, and armored infantry units. The question was about securing Cuito Cuanavale and prevent the enemy from annihilating the group of troops and taking that point which was becoming a symbol of that struggle.

Although I have only mentioned part of it, that is how the process of that struggle began. We were not attempting to carry out a decisive battle there. There is a river next to Cuito Cuanavale—headquarters of the municipality—the Cuito River. There was a bridge there. The enemy, with sophisticated methods, using pilotless planes [aviones teleguiados], managed to destroy the bridge. So, part of the Angolan troops were on one side of the river without a bridge, and the other was to the west—precisely where Cuito Cuanavale is located. The situation was complicated, but it had a solution. However, the solution had to be found without allowing the enemy to carry out a decisive battle right there. We had to restrain them, stop them, and prevent them from destroying the group of Angolan troops located there and from taking Cuito Cuanavale. The rest, with more details, would have to be told under other circumstances, on another occasion. It will probably be the job of writers and historians to tell everything that happened there, and how the events evolved.

The Government of Angola had given us the responsibility of Cuito Cuanavale's defense. Therefore, all the necessary measures were taken not only to stop the South Africans, but also to turn Cuito Cuanavale into a trap against which the South African troops crashed. The teeth of South African aggressiveness were shattered there in Cuito Cuanavale. All this was done with minimum casualties for the Angolan and Cuban troops. They took on the action, and completely failed. However, the Cuban-Angolan strategy was not merely to stop the enemy in Cuito Cuanavale, but to concentrate enough forces and means to the west of our lines, and then advance to the south and threaten strategic points of South Africa, and attack from the southwest. Enough forces were gathered to seriously threaten places of strategic importance for South Africa and to attack them heavily, but on territory chosen by us and not by the enemy. [applause] Our forces advanced to the south via the west. They were sufficient in number and means to carry out their mission. A few clashes were enough for the South Africans to realize the great strength they had before them.

This change in the correlation of forces was what opened the road to negotiations. No one should think that this happened by chance. For a long time, the U.S. had been meeting with the Angolans, and proposing to be mediators, to find a peaceful solution. Years passed that way. However, while these so-called negotiations were taking place, with U.S. mediation, the South Africans had intervened and attempted to militarily solve the Angolan situation. They might have achieved it, had it not been for the effort carried out by our country. The fact is that the correlation changed radically. The South Africans had suffered an overwhelming defeat in Cuito Cuanavale. But for them, the worst was yet to come. The truth is that they began playing with fire and got burnt. Maybe, never in this 12-year history [applause] had they found themselves before a greater challenge. When we reached the border of Namibia in 1976, we had men, and a good number of tanks, but we did not have aviation, antiaircraft artillery, or many of the other resources we have available today.

I must say that our pilots earned a lot of glory in Cuito Cuanavale. Our pilots wrote [applause] truly extraordinary pages [in history]. In a few weeks, a handful of pilots carried out hundreds and hundreds of missions. They dominated the skies with their MiG-23's. It must be said that they carried out a great feat. That was an important factor. Not only did we send our best pilots to Angola, but we also sent our best antiaircraft weapons. We sent a large number of portable antiaircraft weapons, a large number of antiaircraft artillery. We reinforced our air combat. We sent tanks, armored vehicles, and artillery pieces which were necessary. I mentioned the pilots, but it is only fair to mention the behavior of our tank crewmen, artillerymen, [applause] infantry personnel, and sappers—they organized and helped to create the impassable mine fields in Cuito Cuanavale where the South African tanks were dstroyed. [applause] It was a coordinated effort among the various units, right there in close relationship with the Angolan troops. It was there, in that common effort, that they truly acted with extraordinary heroism and with great efficiency. In the battles which were fought east of the river, the Angolan 25th Infantry Brigade was especially outstanding. It was a common struggle, a common merit, and a joint glory. In Cuito Cuanvale, the majority of the forces were Angolan; and in our advance toward the south, which we also did jointly, the majority of the forces were Cuban. [applause]

We had a powerful force. We had, in our hands, control of the skies, antiaircraft superiority, and superiority on land. We were very careful with antiaircraft protection of the troops. Even after the South African aviation disappeared from the skies—after having been taught a few good lessons by our antiaircraft units—our troops always advanced and occupied their positions with maxium antiaircraft protection. They were, and still are, in constant state of alert as a precaution against any surprise attack. We had analyzed very well our experiences from the last wars, and we did not give the enemy a single opportunity [applause].

But we did more than take reinforcement measures with our land, air, and antiaircraft weapons. We carried out construction feats. In a matter of weeks we built a combat airport—an air base which allowed our aviation to advance more than 200 km, and seriouly threatened weak points of the South African troops. There was no improvisation, adventure, or carelessness. The enemy realized that he was facing not only very powerful forces, but also very experienced forces. This is how the conditions were created which gave rise to the negotiations—negotiations which have been evolving, and have even progressed in the last few years. This was a radical change in the political, diplomatic, and military situation. The United States has been acting as mediator in these negotiations. You can say mediator in quotes. By placing mediator in quotes, you do not take away from it a certain positive aspect in its diplomatic role in these negotiations. I say mediator in quotes because they are allies of UNITA. They supply UNITA with arms. In that role, they act as allies of South Africa. But they were also interested in finding a solution to the problem of Namibia. They were interested in finding a peaceful formula in the region which would result in the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola. It is known that the United States practically lost sleep when thinking that a small country like Cuba, blocked and threatened, would be capable of carrying out an internationalist mission of this nature because according to their way of thinking, this was inconceivable. The United States is the only one in the world with the right to have troops, weapons, and bases everywhere.

The fact that a small Caribbean nation has been able to support a brother country in Africa is something that exceeds its parameters, its concepts, and its standards. Of course Cuba's internationalist mission made a big impact in Africa. The African people, even African governments that are not revolutionary, but are more right wing, have viewed with admiration the role played by Cuba in Africa. The African people know that those are their allied troops. They know that the only non-African nation to send troops to defend an African country against racist and fascist South African aggression is Cuba! It is Cuba! [applause]

All of Africa deeply hates apartheid. All of Africa sees in apartheid its biggest enemy, an enemy that scorns Africa, that insults Africa, that humiliates it! It's incredible how hurt the African people are concerning apartheid. This has made African feelings, the African soul an ally of Cuba. Imperialists can't understand Cuba's wide relations in the international sphere. They don't understand Cuba's prestige in the international sphere. It's because the African people have been so humiliated by apartheid and racism. They have been able to value in every aspect the noble and generous gesture, the historical dimension, the heroism of our people which is capable of defending itself here against such a powerful enemy and is capable of helping them in there struggle against the fascists and racists. We know how the African people think, and this is another problem with United States policy.

The African people have seen in the United States an ally and a friend of apartheid! The African people see in the United States Government the principal responsibility for the existence of apartheid! South Africa has become an embarrassing friend for the United States. Apartheid has become something negative, politically, for the United States before world opinion. It has become something foul smelling for U. S. policy which has even caused it internal problems, because of certain sectors in the United States, such as the population of African origin, the black population of the United States. Not only are there problems with the the black population, but with the minorities that are discriminated against in the United States. Not only national minorities, but also an important part of public opinion in the United States condemns apartheid. They repudiate apartheid, criticize apartheid. This turns apartheid into a [words indistinct] problem. It becomes a political problem for the U. S. Government. This is why the United States doesn't want to have anything to do with, it is not interested in being associated with apartheid.

It is the same with the problem of South Africa's occupation of Namibia. It is a problem that worries world opinion. It worries the United Nations. A long time ago the United Nations ordered South Africa to leave Namibia. Many years ago they agreed on Resolution 435 on Namibia's independence. So then, the United States can kill three birds with one stone: a better African attitude, to further separate itself from apartheid; a chance for the application of UN Resolution 435; and finally, that which causes the United States to loose sleep, the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

Those are the objectives that the United States has pursued: to improve its international image, its image before the African nations, and to achieve some progress which will allow it to take a more convenient position in the international opinion, and the withdrawal of Cuban troops from Angola.

In reality, Cuba has no economic interest in Angola or Africa. Cuba does not have strategic interests in Angola or Africa, and it cannot have them because Cuba is not a great power. Cuba is a small country. Cuba is in Angola because of internationalist principles and feelings of solidarity. It is in Angola because it carries out its duty to help the people, its duty to help nations with their fight against apartheid, racism, colonialism, exterior aggression. No country, more than Cuba, is interested in the return of the troops. No one has more to gain than Cuba. No one desires more than Cuba for the troops to return. That is why a political solution is highly positive and very convenient for us—a solution which will provide guarantees for Angola, open the path to the independence of Namibia, and move South African troops away from Angola's border forcing them to stay within their own borders. We would never accept solutions contrary to principles, or above principles. That is why we have been able to remain there already for 13 years, because of principles, loyalty. No national interest, no danger—as shown by the history of these years—no imperialist threat, would have led us to be disloyal and to cease carrying out our duties. I have already said that even when we were being threatend here [as heard], we did not withdraw a single man from Angola, not a single man. However, no one more than our country is interested in a solution such as the one that has been under discussion. No one benefits more than our country—which has already invested in this effort energy, sweat, and the courageous and young men who are there.

These men would be a formidable force to boost our development plans if they were in our country. Sometimes, the imperialists think that it is not convenient for us to find a solution and for the troops to return because they will be unemployed. If there is something we have plenty of here it is jobs, and plans. We currenty have ambitious plans. It is not known how much the return of those troops could contribute to the development of the country. In this case, our interests coincide with the interests and wishes of the United States. They look for a different objective, we look for others. Based on that solution, our combatants could return to their country and drive forward the country's current development plans.

I think this helps explain the reason why the United States has worked with certain seriousness—I will not say with 100 percent seriousness. Throughout these negotiations, they were always leaning more toward South Africa [arimaban la brasa al la sardina Sur Africana]—in other words, they were not completely impartial. But also throughout these months, the U.S. representatives were able to see, on the one hand, the seriousness of Angola and Cuba in the negotiations. I think it has been one of the characteristics of the Angolan and Cuban delegations. Who knows with how much prejudice the U.S. representatives saw this delegation! However they had time to verify the seriousness as well as the firmness and the policy of principle between Cuba and Angola.

During these long months of negotiations we know that they have been able to see that. They have also been able to see the insolence, nerve, lack of seriousness, and the cynicism of the South Africans. They have had a lot of opportunities to observe this in their role as mediators—in quotes—and as mediators who have pretty good relations with South Africa. And if by this time there is not already a signed agreement, a final agreement, the United States knows that it is South Africa's fault. It is because of South Africa's dishonesty and the lack of seriousness on their delegation's part.

There has been a lot of progress made, enough progress has been made. Everyone had to make concessions regarding the principles of the negotiations—the timetable of the withdrawal of the forces. Because our position was that if a solution was sought based on guarantees for Angola—of the noninterference by South Africa in Angola's internal affairs, and the application of resolution 435, and the elimination of the causes which gave rise to the presence of Cuban troops in Angola—Angola, as much as Cuba, was ready to try and carry out a plan for the Cuban troop withdrawal from Angola. A lot of progress has been made in the negotiations, which have been carried out on that basis. But just as we were reaching the final stage, because of the inconsistencies and lack of seriousness of the South Africans, the signing of the agreement has not taken place yet—something that the international community is very interested in, as well as the Government of the United States itself.

During these negotiations, the United States has had several bitter moments because of South Africa's inconsistencies. A point is almost ready to be discussed—that is the verification of withdrawal. Everything else has been agreed upon already. From the very beginning, Angola and Cuba were the ones to propose the verification. It was said: withdrawal with verification, and verification by the United Nations. We have already held discussions with the United Nations; and there is practically an agreement on the general phases of the verification. So we proposed: Do we verify the withdrawal of each ship or plane that leaves? Or do we verify the withdrawal of equipment or personnel as they depart? What were the South Africans trying to do? Did they want the verification of the troop withdrawal? We said: there is no verification of troop withdrawal. They were practically demanding that there be inspectors in the midst of our troops. They also wanted to be provided with all the information on the number, composition, etc of the troops; but we said no, under no circumstances. We told them this at the United Nations. We said it to the UN Secretary General and to the representatives of the United Nations. We asked them what did the verification consist of—a verification which was our initiative. We proposed this as proof of good faith and seriousness, but we said that we would not give any information which could endanger the troops, or any information on its composition and weapons which is always a risk for security. The Angolans agreed that once the troops were withdrawn, it could be verified, on site, that there were no longer Cuban troops present. So, at this moment, these are just details that are delaying the negotiation.

They wanted the quadripartite agreement to include verification; and they wanted the agreement to say that it had to be an acceptable verification. To accept the phrase acceptable verification is to give South Africa the right to hinder negotiations, to make demands, and to decide whether or not the verification is acceptable. This can only be decided between the United Nations and Cuba. Only between these two can it decided what is and is not acceptable verification [applause]. These are the points that are being discussed.

Of course, I have said that we have worked seriously, and the United States knows it. We have worked in order to find just agreements, and with the willingness of strictly complying with the commitments which we make. However, we have not accepted the violation of any principle. We have not accepted any kind of demands, or blackmail in these negotiations. We have been very firm about that. We have acted in very close coordination with the Angolans, and of course, we respect the Angolan's point of view, ideas, and interests. If at any point the Angolans ask us to yield on a particular issue, we will immediately yield.

However, if there is something that concerns us, such as the matter of inspection of our troops, that is a matter for us to decide. But we will never accept that kind of proposal [applause]. There are things only for us to decide, and we decide all of them based on principles. So I am explaining this to you today—and I am taking a little longer than expected—so that you'll know and understand the essence of this whole process which is bringing us closer to a solution. Of course, if a solution is not reached, Cuba will not responsible for that in any way.

When we decided to reinforce the troops to handle a critical situation which had arisen, we clearly said that we were not after military victories—without facing a situation. We said we preferred a political solution. But if we had no other alternative than to strike with all our power the South Africans, we would strike them with all our power—but not because this is what we desired. We did not want victory at the expense of a single life, or a drop of blood. This is only done when there is no other alternative. And as long as there is a possibility for a solution without that kind of sacrifice, we will prefer it to any other solution. We have said it publicly: We are not looking for military victories; we prefer a political solution. But the the conditions for one thing or the other had been created. This was what was actually done.

We have discussed this publicly and with complete seriousness. We have never revealed a detail of the negotiations. The South Africans constantly revealed details of the negotiations while they were being held. Not once did we violate the rule of discretion throughout the negotiations. That is why today we can say, right here, for everyone to hear—our nation, the United States, the South Africans, the whole world—if there is not a solution now, it is not Cuba's reponsibility. If unacceptable demands are made—violations of principles with regards to Cuba—we are ready to stay another year, another 5, 10, 15, 20 years in Angola [applause]. I think this must be known.

The internationalist mission has been completed by 300,000 Cubans; and if it has to go up to 600,000, it will go up to 600,000. But sacrifices are not done in vain, commitments are not violated, honor is not stained. That is why our position should be very clear to the adversary.

We want a solution. No one benefits more than Cuba from a solution. We are holding negotiations with the purpose of strictly complying with our obligations. Verification is not even necessary; however, we proposed it as proof of good faith. When we sign whatever we sign, we will adhere to it to the letter. If those are the commitments, we will adhere to them strictly. That is why I say we don't even need verification. It is our proposal, our proof of good faith. However, even we have expressed the idea that negotiation is convenient, that we desire negotiation. No one benefits more than Cuba. If that idea is confusing by leading to believe that we are ready to sacrifice our principles, it would be a great error. What we say publicly, we say it for the whole nation. We must be ready to remain as long as it is necessary if there is not a solution now. Without firmness, there is no true peace. Without firmness, one cannot even negotiate. [applause] That is basically what I wanted to say regarding the internationalist mission. A large part of our leadership's time, our time, and the time of the FAR was taken up by this problem throughout the year. The decision was not easy, especially at the time when the decision was made.

I have already told you that this occurred close to the date of the Gorbachev-Reagan meeting. There were some who thought that we were conspiring against peace. Some thought we were against peace because under those circumstances, we would be forced to send reinforcement troops. However, in that situation, I can assure you that we could not loose a day, a minute. A minute lost would have been too late. There are moments in which difficult decisions must be made, or in which bitter decisions must be made. When that moment came, our party and Armed Forces, did not vacillate at any moment. I think that that helped to avoid a political setback, and a military setback. I think that that helped decisively in the prospects for peace which are before us today.

I think that on a day like today, it is fitting to pay tribute to the effort carried out by our combatants, our people. We can all feel proud of this mission—another page of glory for our combatant nation, our Armed Forces which were born on 10 October 1868, [applause] and reborn on 2 December 1956. There are some who have even dared to question the internationalist spirit of our people, the internationalist heroism of our people. The are some who have criticized it. That is the Yankee hope: That an anti-internationalist current appears among the people to weaken the nation. As we have said on other occasions: to be an internationalist is to pay our own debt to humanity. [applause] He who is not capable of fighting for others, will never be capable enough of fighting for himself. The heroism shown by our forces and people in other territories, in distant territories, must also serve to let the imperialists know what they will face should they force us one day to fight on this territory. [applause]

And now, one last thought. On day like today, we must be aware that the battle against the empire is not only fought in the military area, with arms in hand, it is also fought in the ideological area, in the area of consciousness. As I was saying when I began speaking, the empire, as long as it exists, will never stop attempting to destroy our revolution—with any means, military or ideological. It will do it with military means, or by trying to destroy our revolutionary awareness. That is why when we speak of defense, we must never forget that we must know how to defend ourselves in both areas. In the military area and in the ideological area. We must never allow our revolutionary ideology to weaken. We must never allow our revolutionary awareness to weaken. [applause] The enemy does not cease working in that area—in the ideological battle, in its campaigns against our fatherland abroad, in its campaigns against the revolution in the interior of the country. It is not in vain that they invest all the possible resources to weaken our people, to present as idyllic its image of a society of consumption. If they cannot make us give in, they try to weaken us politically. They try to confuse us; and there are people who allow themselves to be confused. They try to weaken us; and there are people who allow themselves to be weakened.

Let's say we are living through a special moment of the international revolutionary process. As many socialist countries criticize what they have done for many years, as they even deny things that had been affirmed for complete decades, we respect the right of others to criticize whatever they want, and deny whatever they want to deny. We do take into account that imperialism tries to make the most out of this situation. It tries to take the greatest advantage from it. Today, imperialism practically tries to show socialism as something that has failed. They try to show it as a system without a future; and they highlight to the utmost the so-called advantages of its selfish and repugnant capitalist system.

Never before have the capitalists praised themselves so much. Never before have they praised their system so much. This is an interesting lesson for revolutionaries—irrefutable proof of the long ideological struggle which lies ahead for Socialism and Marxism-Leninism. [applause] Today in imperiaists societies, it is almost a trend to question our objectives, and principles. Today more than ever, we must be firm holders of the Socialist and Marxist-Leninist banner. [applause] Today more than ever, we must show our confidence and faith. First it was Marxism-Leninism, and then it was Socialism which has brought us this far. It was Socialism that has made possible this miracle, for our nation to be what it is. Regarless of what it means, it was Marxism-Leninism that enlightened us, made us see clearly. It was Marxism-Leninism that made victory possible—the correct interpretation of our reality.

It was the resulting application of these principles which gave content, and great social and historic objectives to our struggle. It was what gave meaning to "Granma". What would "Granma" have meant without this, today. What sense would our struggle in Moncada have had? Or what meaning would there be to the exit from Mexico, the landing in Cuba, the struggle in the mountains, the victory of 1 January, the victory against the dirty war, the victory of Giron, the proclamation of Socialism, the fact that our country is today what it is, and first among all the countries of the world in many things—first in education, first in health, first social security, first in employment, one of the first in nutrition [applause]. The fact that our country—blocked by the empire for 30 years—has reached the social and material achievements it has reached, we owe that to Marxism-Leninism and Socialism. [applause] Without that, we would be nothing. Without that, we would not have had the October revolution. Without that, countries which were still colonies would not have been set free. Without that, there would not have been revolutions in Latin America. Without that, there would not have been a socialist revolution in Cuba. Socialism is, and will be, the hope, the only hope, path of the nations, the oppressed, and the exploited. Socialism is the only alternative.

Today, when the enemies question socialism, we must defend it more than ever—this is important. We have a responsibility, we must give socialism give prestige, show what socialism can do, perfect socialism, make it more efficient. The conquests and feats that have been accomplished are great, but many conquests still lie ahead. The road we must travel is long. The successes to be achieved are many. If you see that someone is trying to clandestinely penetrate our coasts to spy, or for sabotage, or commit a crime fight them with determination.

If you see vessels landing, attack them immediately because they threaten our physical security. If you see that enemy planes begin bombing us, do not hesitate an instant and fire on them because you can see that they are invading us, attacking us.

In the same way, we must fight against everything that weakens us or takes prestige or efficiency away from Socialism. Socialism is a new system. It is only a few decades old. Mistakes have been made, yes, many mistakes, all kinds of mistakes throughout its history. This was logical and unavoidable.

We must learn our lessons from all these mistakes in order to avoid them. We, Cubans, could even say with satisfaction, that we have not made many mistakes others have made. [applause] We have made mistakes and we must rectify according to our own mistakes. We must must not rectify according to someone else's mistakes. [applause] We must rectify based on our own experiences. We have the duty to fight in the same way that we would fight an enemy landing on our coasts. We must fight against everything that weakens the revolution. We must show the superiority of Socialism in all areas.

We have seen it so many times, not only in excellent schools, but in health centers. Not only in social achievements, but also in the economy and production field. We see what men are capable of doing. We see what we are capable of doing.

A few days ago I visited some places in the country. I visited the Camaguey mechanical plant with almost 4,000 workers—young people averaging 24 years of age—over 450 of them are university graduates. It is an extraordinary collective created by the revolution. This is evidence of what the revolution can do and gives true hope.

We have seen this in contingents that are building roads. They are working 13 and 14 hours. They do what no collective does or can do in capitalism. They are making rational use of resources and equipment and have yielded extraordinary results.

You have seen me there in Granma awarding banners to collectives. They are building dams for rice fields, sugarcane fields, to produce foodstuffs for the population. We awarded banners to three brigades. There were many internationalist comrades among them.

We saw it in Las Tunas in a rolling mill which was built in 17 months from the time in which the decision [to build it] was made. It was built in Cuba. It is going to produce reinforcement rods for construction. It is operated by a young collective. It was built in 14 months [as received] by a contingent that says will be able to build the next rolling mill in 12 months. We see truly extraordinary things that can be done. Capitalism will not be able to do them ever. [applause]

Let's use to the greatest advantage of all these possibilities, let's use to the greatest advantage all these forces. Let's wage a general battle against mediocrity, irresponsibility, indolence, and negligence. Whatever is going wrong here is our fault; yours and ours, of each worker in his work place and of each leader. If whatever goes wrong is our fault we have to look into ourselves very hard. Consequently, we should struggle against our own deficiencies, and our own negligence. If this has always been a duty, today it is more so because our country now has great international responsibilities, great responsibilities [repeats]. Not because it is a superpower, but because it is a great example of revolutionary spirit, internationalism, heroism, courage in its capability of facing the empire, in its audacity of building socialism next to imperialism.

Our country has a great responsibility in Latin America. In this crucial time for Latin America, Cuba's word is heard more and more. Cuba's prestige grows more and more, not only in Latin America but in the world. In this difficult time for socialism, when in the ideological field, imperialism is trying with all its means to question and confuse, we have the sacred patriotic mission and the sacred internationalist mission of raising to the highest level the banners of socialism, the possibilities of socialism, and the prestige of socialism. [applause]

To work better and more efficiently not only benefits our country, but also benefits the world, benefits our cause, and benefits our ideology. Above all, it benefits Latin American people and Third World people. It benefits all peoples, including the people from socialist countries. It also benefits workers of capitalist countries.

Let's raise our heads higher than ever, let's raise our banners higher than ever. Let's give socialism more prestige than ever. If imperialism deludes itself by thinking that the prestige of socialism is decreasing, or that the socialist system will fail, we have to show imperialism, now more than ever, what socialism can do. [applause] We have to show this in these times more than ever.

In difficult times.... [rephrases] It is not difficult to defend causes in easy times. It is nothing especially meritorious. It is truly meritorious to defend banners in difficult times. To defend socialism when it is trendy, or when its prestige is at the top, is easy. To defend socialism when it is going through difficulties at the international level is a more meritorious task. To defend socialism when there are not only international difficulties, but also difficulties at the national level, is truly meritorious. And today, when there are international difficulties as well as national difficulties, we must defend socialism.

Some [difficulties] are derived from our own errors, others are derived from circumstances which our beyond our grasp. It was our error to not do more in the same time, in not doing things bettter throughout 30 years. Some of our errors were based on imitating the experiences of other socialist countries—many of which are saying today that they are no good. We also do not want to hear in 10 or 20 years that some of the things we are doing now are no good. That is why we must learn from our own experiences, our own ideas, and from our own interpretations of Marxism-Leninism. Our creative and original interpretation of Marxism-Leninism is what led us to victory. What has brought us to this point is not allowing ourselves to be dragged down by dogma. Difficulties should not.... [changes thought] The difficulties derived from our own errors should not discourage us, just as we shouldn't be discouraged by the difficulties which arise from errors that are not ours. We should not be discouraged by the objective conditions which exist in today's world—where there are billions of people contaminated by neocolonialist and imperialist powers. We should not be discouraged by problems which are objective and affect all humanity, especially Latin American countries and in the Third World. On the contrary, we should raise our voices [word indistinct] for a common struggle among all our nations, to overcome those objective difficulties. We must be ready to overcome any obstacle.

If the road was right on track, if it was easy, there would be no honor, or glory in calling ourselves revolutionaries. There would be no dignity, or pride in considering ourselves revolutionaries. We must be prepared to face all difficulties, and fight all attacks from all areas. As I was saying, we must be prepared to fight not only in the military terrain, but also in the political and ideological areas.

Under these circumstances, more than ever, it is important to strengthen trust and unity in the party. [applause] I say unity with regards to the party, our party, and the interpretation by our party. Our party can make mistakes, it can have weaknesses. What we need to do is to correct them, overcome mistakes. He who tries to destroy faith in the party is undermining the basis of our confidence, the basis of our strength. He who weakens the party's authority will be weakening the authority of the revolution. There is no revolution without party. There is no socialism without the party. [applause] The process could not go forward without the party and without its authority. This is why it is the duty of our revolution to give more and more authority to the party. It is the duty of its members to watch more and more for the prestige and the authority of the party.

Today, more than ever, discipline is essential. All those who promote and commit social indignities are members of the enemy; they are conscious or unconscious agents of the enemy. That is why all all indiscipline, every incorrect thing, everything that is done wrong, every immoral thing, and every illegal thing has to be strongly fought everywhere. [applause] These expressions are like the crews of the vessels that may try to get close to our coasts to invade the country. They are the fifth column. They are agents, servants of imperialist ideology, of capitalist ideology, and of counterrevolutionary ideology. Things done wrong, incorrect things, shoddy work, negligence, social indiscipline, even criminal activity, are in the ideological field like the vessels that may try to get near our coasts to invade our land.

That is, a battle needs to be waged in the ideological area, in the political area, a daily battle in the construction of socialism, a daily battle for efficiency. The other battle is seen easier if planes come to throw bombs, if vessels come to shoot cannons, or if soldiers come to land. The military battle is easier seen than the other battle. The enemy can be identified easier in the military area than in the area of economy, politics, and ideology. This is why we need to reflect on this today, on the need to defend ourselves in all areas, on the need to be armed in all areas, without letting any difficulty discourage us.

We struggle against objective and material difficulties and we try to overcome them. It is not an easy battle—I believe we are going to get wet anyway even though I am about to finish. It is not an easy battle [repeats] [applause]

There could be more difficulties. We are facing a new situation. I was saying there could be more difficulties. To give you an example, new trials, and new experiences are taking place in the socialist area, new reforms. It will be very good for us if they are successful. Our difficulties will be much greater if they are not. So, you cannot only expect difficulties from the enemy, but also difficulties from our own friends.

To end, comrades, I want to remind you of one thing. Exactly today, chronologically speaking, on 5 December, we had our worst setback in the entire war. At a time such as this, I was meeting with two men. Raul was meeting with another small group of comrades. Only a small part of our Army was left. More difficulties cannot be thought of ever. [applause] None of us got discouraged. We were determined to continue the struggle and we continued it. We were determined to reach victory and we reached it. We were determined to continue fighting and we continue to fight.

This is why, today, millions of men and women in our fatherland, have organized and armed themselves just like you have. This is why today we have a party of hundreds of thousands of members, plus the hundreds of thousands of members of the Union of Young Communists, and the millions of men and women who work in our fields, our factories, and our service centers.

With this, I want to say that we are men who are used to struggle, who are not discouraged by any difficulty because we have known how to face difficult times. If we were capable of overcoming them when we were just a few—as few as the number of fingers in one hand—today that we are millions, there will be no type of internal or external force that will be capable of blocking our victorious and final path toward the future. Fatherland or death, we will win! [crowd roars]

Dominican Republic

Jorge Blanco Allowed 30 Visitors Per Day

FL0912193588 Santo Domingo Cadena de Noticias in Spanish 0944 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The general director of prisons has denied that Dr Salvador Jorge Blanco has not been allowed to receive his friends at the Ensanche La Fe detention center. Dr Arturo Uribe Efre said visits have been limited to 30 per day. Urube Efre asserted that the prison could not allow more than that because they have to avoid crowds at the detention center. He added that other former officials have not been restricted from receiving visitors either. The general director of prisons was asked about the claim made by Jorge Blanco's attorneys.

Grenada

NNP Convention Postponed Due to Blaize Illness

FL0912182888 Bridgetown CANA in English
1745 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] St. George's, Grenada, Dec 9, CANA—Grenada's ruling New National Party (NNP) has postponed this weekend's annual convention until next month as a result of the hospitalization of political leader, Prime Minister Herbert Blaize. A party statement said that the decision to cancel the convention was agreed on at Thursday's emergency executive meeting in which Blaize's illness was discussed.

Minister of State for Tourism, Pauline Andrews, and Senator Gloria St. Bernard are said to be spearheading moves to have the convention postponed indefinitely until Blaize is recovered, but sources here say other members want to proceed with the convention next month, with or without his presence.

The convention is now due for January 21-22 and one highlight could be a challenge to Blaize's leadership from Public Utilities Minister Dr Keith Mitchell.

Education Minister George McGuire had previously indicated that he would oppose the convention taking place if anyone attempted to challenge Blaize for the top post. McGuire, who often supports Blaize's positions, said that Blaize would not be able to attend the convention and it was only fair that he be given a chance to defend himself.

Mitchell, the NNP general-secretary, has declined to comment on claims that he was trying to unseat Blize.

Haiti

Discussion Held on Cedha Draft Decree

FL0912203488 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] There was a discussion held at 1000 yesterday at the Hotel Palace on the draft decree presented by the Avril government. Several officials from political groups and (?from) the national association of professional journalists participated in the discussion.

The participating included: Gilles Hendrick, for the Charlemagne Peralte [National Liberation] Front and the Liaison of the Democratic Forces; Dr Jacques Bernardin, for PNPH [expansion not provided]; political scientist (Wilfrid Solages); lawyer (Evans Bordes), who is president of the Unified Haitian Civic Action Movement [Mouvman Aksyon Sivik Inifie Ayisyen]; and Mr (Seymour Romain). All of these people sat at the speakers table.

The discussion of draft decree matters was incomplete because one of the guests, Mr (Seymour Romain) was to comment on whether the draft decree went against the Constitution—(Romain) had to leave the room following a proposal by Mr Hendrick regarding modifications of the draft decree.

According to Hendrick, the draft decree made public by Gen Prosper Avril's government proves that the government wants to display a minimum of (?decency). Mr Hendrick says the draft decree [creating the Electoral College of Haiti, or Cedha] is laudable, and every bit as good as the first Provisional Electoral Council, which resulted in a [massacre on] 29 November 1987.

Mr (Romain) said that the draft decree was the result of the president's will; and that it could not be accepted, (?because of) certain articles it contained.

The men argued heatedly over the draft decree.

UPD Issues Press Release on Human Rights Week

FL0912182088 Port-au-Prince Radio Nationale
in Creole 1400 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpts] [Announcer] In a decree, the military government agreed to make the week of 5-10 December human rights week. We are going to talk to you about this.

[Second announcer] The UPD [Union of Democratic Patriots] has issued a press release on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of [the declaration of] human rights.

The UPD says: Forty years after the Haitian Government signed this document, the UPD asks the country's leaders if they are really celebrating human rights—for the criminals who murdered people on 29 November are still free; and the 17 September movement soldiers are still in jail, without the Justice Department's having commented on the matter. Can we celebrate human rights in Haiti while most people in the country cannot find a job, get enough to eat, or send their children to school? Can we celebrate human rights in Haiti while Haitian citizens cannot choose their leaders and representatives?

For this reason, the UPD asks all patriots in the four corners of Haiti to organize, and get together to demand that their rights be respected.

The UPD says: It is time for us to say no to all foreign bigshots who want to come take over our country. Haiti should belong to Haitians. [passage omitted]

This press release is signed by Rockefeller Guerre.

Agency Doctor Arrested in Dominican Republic

FL0912180588 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The National Directorate of Investigations, which is the Dominican Republic's secret service, yesterday morning arrested Dr Paul Etienne, the coordinator of the Good Samaritan Center. Dr Etienne is replacing Dr (Faublas) for awhile.

Paul Etienne was arrested at his office by three armed civilians. They took him first to the police and then to immigration. His passport and documents were seized as well.

The president of this Dominican center accompanied him throughout. The Haitian Embassy in Santo Domingo sent embassy attache Frantz Andre to obtain information about this arrest. According to Andre, all of Dr Etienne's documents are in order.

Dominican secret service officials told (?Andre) that they were going to conduct a 24-hour investigation; however, they did not give the reason for the arrest. Andre said the Haitian Embassy would be stating its position on this matter, after the Dominican authorities comment.

We remind listeners that Dr Paul Etienne has been working for several years at the Good Samaritan Center, which is coming to the aid of Haitians in the Dominican sugar camps. Since replacing coordinator Dr (Faublas, Simon Joseph) at the head of the center, Dr Etienne has never hesitated to denounce before both Haitian and Dominican public opinion the unfortunate situation of the Haitian laborers and the clandestine recruiting that the CEA [Consejo Estatal del Azucar, National Sugar Council] has been organizing. He was also instrumental in the recent repatriation of 16 Haitians who were living in unwholesome conditions in Dominican sugar camps.

'Zombie' Checks Paid to Dead Investigated

FL0912140088 Port-au-Prince Radio Soleil Network in Creole 1200 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Fenachopa [National Federation of Patriotic Unemployed Haitians] says that after investigating the matter for some time—the number of checks being paid out to the dead in public offices, it has reached the conclusion that the situation simply cannot remain as is. Fenachopa says that the people getting these zombie checks [checks made out to nonexistent personnel] are not poor. They are people who already have millions in Swiss banks. Some of them were even candidates for president, senator, or deputy. Fenachopa says it has been investigating this matter for some time, and that its investigation has revealed that some of these people are the beneficiaries of checks made out to the dead.

Fenachopa also says: When one considers how unemployment is continuing to rise, going from 70 percent to 86 percent, couldn't they instead use [the money from] these zombie checks to reduce unemployment in Haiti? And couldn't they also lower salaries—from that of the chief of state to those of public administration department heads?

Why don't they reduce these salaries by 50 percent [and use the money] to reduce unemployment. Fenachopa says that in the entire Caribbean, only in Haiti is a chief of state or a minister paid as much—whereas look at all the people asking for raises!

That was Fenachopa's position on zombie checks, which are rampant throughout the public administration. Fenachopa says that by using the money from these zombie checks and by lowering the salaries of a number of people who are overpaid, considering the number of unemployed in Haiti, many things could be changed in this country.

Fenachopa says that the problem of unemployment should be tackled at the roots. The solution does not lie, says Fenachopa, in creating 15,000 jobs with which to disguise unemployment for some 6 months, only to have the problem resurface.

Montserrat

Britain's Timothy Eggar Arrives for Talks

FL1012031788 Bridgetown CANA in English 2315 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Plymouth, Montserrat, Dec 9, CANA—Britain's parliamentary under secretary for foreign and commonwealth affairs, Timothy Eggar, arrived in Montserrat Friday for a two-day visit, at the head of a three-man delegation.

The delegation, which includes Private Secretary Richard Makepeace and head of the West Indian and Atlantic Department—Robin Gorham, was met on arrival at Blackburne Airport by Montserrat's Governor Christopher Turner, Chief Minister John Osborne, and other government officials.

This evening, the British team will attend a reception at Government House and a dinner, at which Chief Minister Osborne will be the main speaker. On Saturday, Eggar will meet the chief minister and opposition leader Bertrand Osborne.

Montserrat's continued status as a British colony is expected to be the main theme of talks between the visiting minister and the chief minister, who has made his support for Montserrat's independence very clear.

Eggar and the chief minister recently crossed swords on the issue, and over the level of British aid to Montserrat. The verbal exchange was sparked by Britain's refusal to provide emergency medical treatment to five-year-old Montserratian hole-in-the-heart patient, Marquita Ogarro.

The chief minister used the inccident to renew his call for independence, and announced plans for a 1990 national referendum on the issue.

Meanwhile, the Montserrat REPORTER newspaper, linked to the opposition National Development Party (NDP), said in its edition Friday it hoped Eggar's visit would make it possible for him and the chief minister to "stop slinging mud at each other across the airwaves".

Mr. Eggar leaves here tomorrow afternoon.

Salinas on Need for Sound Economic Base

PA1112173388 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] During a meeting with members of the Labor Congress at the Reception Room of the National Palace yesterday, President Carlos Salinas de Gortari said that with sound economic bases there will be more production, greater savings, budgetary discipline, and an appropriate earmarking of resources to meet social spending priorities. The president added:

[Begin recording] We will not wait until we fulfill all economic goals to meet the workers' most heartfelt demands. It is imperative to protect the workers' purchasing power. It is also necessary to expand the domestic market and to make sure that the additional effort required will be evenly and fairly distributed among all strata of society. [end recording]

The president demanded a committed participation from organized labor to increase productivity in Mexico:

[Begin recording] I am sure that this way—with increased production and a most resolute participation of dynamic, vanguard organizations—we can succeed in achieving the most important and difficult of our goals: to increase real wages; to expand the labor movement's gains; to perfect the workers' social security system; and to meet not only today's urgent demand for jobs, but, above all, the demand for jobs in the near future. [end recording]

Accompanied by Arsenio Farell, labor and social welfare secretary, Salinas de Gortari said the organized labor movement must keep ahead of the workers' demands and be the leaders of change. He said his government will guarantee full participation by the workers and their organizations in the modernization required by Mexico.

Government Grants Asylum to Venezuelans

PA1012172088 Paris AFP in Spanish 0541 GMT 10 Nov 88

[Text] Mexico City, 9 Dec (AFP)—The Government Secretariat announced tonight that the Mexican Government has decided to grant asylum to the two Venezuelan fishermen who took refuge in the Mexican Embassy in Caracas "in keeping with the tradition of the Mexican people and Government of granting protection to those suffering political persecution."

The Venezuelans, who arrived at noon in Mexico City, are Wolmer Pinilla and Jose Arias. They survived the massacre of 14 fellow fishermen in El Amparo on 29 October.

According to the Government Secretariat, the Venezuelans' request was "regarded as just" by the Foreign Relations Secretariat. The Mexican Government therefore granted them asylum, "adhering to the highest principles of defense of human rights."

Committee Established To Promote New Party

PA0912205588 Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 5 Dec 88 p 9

[Text] Toluca, Mexico, 3 Nov—Militants of the Mexican Socialist Party, Democratic Current, Movement Toward Socialism, Revolutionary Left-Wing Organization (OIR), Critical Point [Punto Critico], and other people not linked to any political parties established here at noon today a state committee to promote the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD) [Partido de la Revolucion Democratica]. Cesar Buenrostro, member of the group's national commission, said this was a "historic day" for this Mexican group and for the rest of the country.

The group organizing the PRD promised to work hard to establish this party, which will struggle for political and democratic reforms, a new electoral law, the preparation of reliable voter lists, the annulment of the penal code article that hinders the right to exercise individual liberties, and the strengthening of the municipalities and of their freedom and autonomy. In addition, this group will promote candidates jointly with similar organizations during the local elections and will struggle to redirect economic policies toward the people's interest, according to the appeal to the state's population approved and read today at the meeting.

Rafael Hernandez, another of the speakers during this event, emphasized that the National Democratic Front [FDN] won the presidential elections in 31 of the 34 electoral districts in Mexico City, as well as in the large cities and the rural areas. Moreover, he said, the FDN received over 50 percent of the total vote.

The meeting to set up the state committee promoting the PRD was held at the railroad workers auditorium. Federal Deputies Octavio Moreno Toscano, Reynaldo Rosas, and Carmelo Enriquez attended this event.

Bank Reports Jan-Nov Inflation Figure

PA0912175788 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] From January to November 1988, the accumulated inflation rate reached 48.6 percent, according to a Bank of Mexico report. It is therefore expected to reach 50 percent by the end of the year.

Police Confiscate Colombian Cocaine Shipment

PA0912175888 Mexico City Red Nacional 13 Imevision Television in Spanish 1300 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] The Federal Judicial Police have confiscated 750 kg of pure cocaine in Nuevo Laredo. The cocaine was smuggled in from Colombia.

Costa Rica

8 Dec Border Incident With Panama Reported

PA1012194888 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1919 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] San Jose, 10 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Costa Rican officials are investigating the circumstances that led to the detention of five of this country's citizens in Costa Rican territory by Panama Defense Forces troops on 8 December.

According to preliminary reports by Costa Rican Government Minister Antonio Alvarez, the detention of the five Costa Ricans—three of whom were government officials—took place approximately 75 meters inside Costa Rican territory and lasted about 5 hours.

Alvarez said this action could be related to an incident that took place the previous day, when the Costa Rican Rural Police stopped a Panamanian vehicle that was attempting to smuggle coffee into Costa Rica. The minister hinted that the detention of the five Costa Ricans by the Panamanian soldiers the following day could be "some sort of reprisal."

The border area where the Costa Ricans were detained has been the scene of various incidents since Panama's political and economic crisis began 18 months ago.

Rural Police Director Antonio Espinoza was sent to the area to investigate this case. Depending on his findings, his report might be sent to the Costa Rican Foreign Ministry for further action.

Joint Border Patrols With Nicaragua Begin

PA0912153988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1808 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] San Jose, 8 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—According to Costa Rican sources, patrols from the Costa Rican Civil Police and Nicaragua's EPS began joint surveillance of the Costa Rica-Nicaragua border this week. The two sides agreed to take this action at a meeting on 24 November at the Nicaraguan beach resort of San Juan del Sur.

Costa Rican Security Minister Hernan Garron told the press today that the patrols watch their own territory and coordinate their work through observers each country has posted in the other.

Garron added that each country has authorized "some leeway with regard to air surveillance."

The goals of the first joint surveillance operation are to control cattle rustling and to check reports that there are marijuana plantations on both sides of the border.

Garron said that thus far no irregularities have been discovered on the Costa Rican side and that the Nicaraguans have only found traces of marijuana plantations that had been previously destroyed.

Authorities Arrest Man Wanted in United States

PA1112163588 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Government Minister Antonio Alvarez Desanti yesterday confirmed the arrest of Costa Rican citizen Pedro Delgado Monzon, who is wanted by U.S. authorities.

According to reports from the Drugs and Intelligence Directorate, they had confidential information indicating that this individual was a fugitive from U.S. justice. That is why Delgado was arrested.

Delgado faces an arrest warrant issued on 27 October 1988 by the Southern District Court of Florida for charges related to the smuggling of marijuana and cocaine for distribution in the United States.

Cocaine Seized, 6 Colombians Arrested

PA0812193088 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Summary] Six Colombians with 28 kg of cocaine were detained at the Juan Santamaria Airport in San Jose last night. According to the DEA, the men have no previous criminal record. The drugs were reportedly aboard a plane from Panama City.

El Salvador

Duarte Returns From Mexico in 'Better Health'

PA1012040188 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0309 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Report by Mauricio Funes]

[Text] In good spirits and in better health than a few days ago, Salvadoran President Jose Napoleon Duarte returned to our country this afternoon to assume his constitutional duties.

Duarte was accompanied by his wife, Ines de Duarte; the chief of the presidential general staff; his personal physician, Dr Jose Luis Saca; and Salvadoran Ambassador to Mexico Sigfrido Antonio Munes.

Duarte traveled to Mexico to attend Carlos Salinas de Gortari's presidential inauguration on 1 December. On that same day, however, Duarte was hospitalized because of a series of intestinal complications caused by his fifth chemotherapy treatment, which he received moments before leaving for Mexico.

Although his team of doctors advised against his attending the presidential inauguration in Mexico, President Duarte insisted on traveling. Fortunately, the crisis was overcome after 6 days of rest and treatment of the intestinal paralysis caused by the chemotherapy treatment.

A few minutes after his arrival in El Salvador, his personal physician, Dr Jose Luis Saca, stated that Duarte is in much better condition than when he left the country:

[Begin recording] [Saca] He is very well. He is better than when he left. Obviously, when he left he was in pain and not feeling well. He was very ill. When he left he was not well at all. The trip represented a risk. Now, however, he is very well. His diet is normal. In other words, he does not need any special care. The amount of medication he is receiving is minimal. [end recording]

Dr Saca said President Duarte will probably go for a general checkup in January. A month ago, Duarte had his abdominal region scanned and the test showed a noticeable recovery; of the seven tumors detected in mid-1988, two had almost disappeared and the remaining five had been reduced 50 percent.

According to Dr Saca, President Duarte can resume his constitutional duties without any problem.

FMLN Attacks El Roblar Communications Center

PA0912155088 San Salvador Canal Seis Television in Spanish 0200 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Report by Carlos Armando Rivera]

[Text] Colonel Juan Orlando Zepeda, commander of the 1st Infantry Brigade, reported today that guerrillas again harassed the El Roblar military communications base on Guazapa Hill last night. There were no casualties or damage.

The officer said the guerrillas wanted to interrupt communications and recover explosives they left behind last week after the guerrillas clashed with the Army for several hours. That clash left nine soldiers and four insurgents dead.

[Being Zepeda recording] El Roblar houses a communications center with many radio repeaters and transmitting antennas used by different units. These radio repeaters are exclusively for military communications. We have soldiers from several units, such as the DM-5, the 4th Infantry Brigade, and the Atlacatl Battalion, guarding the base. El Roblar is a former FMLN stronghold that was captured in April 1981. This is where the FMLN was organized and began operating. The capture of this base had a strategic value.

I believe this attack has been very costly for the FMLN. The hilly terrain made their attack very difficult to carry out. We have been able to verify the death of two terrorists they left behind; afterward, we also found a terrorist's hand and the body of a woman in the northern part of Guazapa Hill in Mirandilla Canton.

This proves they also sustained casualties. They have had many dead. [end recording]

The 1st Infantry Brigade commander reported that the Army will increase military patrols over Christmas and New Year's Day. If necessary, the Army will cancel leaves.

Troops from the 1st Infantry Brigade will carry out joint actions with soldiers from other military units at the foot of the San Salvador volcano and Guazapa Hill. The troops will also guard coffee processing plants and sugar mills throughout San Salvador Department.

Army Reports 17 FMLN Casualties in Morazan

PA0912135888 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] It has been officially reported that the FMLN sustained 17 casualties during an attack against Army positions in Morazan Department on 7 December.

The Armed Forces also reported that the rebels wounded eight peasants and destroyed the Lolotiquillo mayor's office.

The report, which did not mention any Army casualties, said the peasants were wounded when the rebels set off bombs in Gotera and Delicias de Concepcion.

In addition, two guerrillas were killed in a clash with 6th Brigade troops in Berlin, Usulutan.

Discovery of 22 Guerrilla Bodies Reported

PA1012040688 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0317 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] The commander of Military Detachment No 4 today reported today the discovery of 22 dead guerrillas in Morazan Department. According to Colonel Roman Alfonso Barrera, the bodies were found near Osicala following a search operation after an FMLN attack on Army positions in that area.

Meanwhile, three guerrillas were killed yesterday during a clash with the 3d Brigade from Chiriligua, San Gerardo, in San Miguel Department.

This morning, insurgents derailed a train in the Soyapango Jurisdiction. FENADESAL [Salvadoran National Railroad] spokesmen said the incident took place at the km 249 point on the railway line where the train was derailed by a Claymore mine. There were no casualties.

UDN To Abstain From Presidential Elections

PA0912192388 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 7 Dec 88 p 3

[Text] The Nationalist Democratic Union (UDN) will not participate in the March 1989 elections because, in its opinion, those elections will not end the civil war. The UDN believes that, on the contrary, the situation will be worsened by the elections.

During a speech at a party meeting in a San Salvador theater, UDN Secretary General Mario Aguinada Carranza called on all segments of society to refuse to participate in the "counterinsurgency plan" and instead to struggle for a negotiated political solution to the armed conflict.

Aguinada Carranza, who was accompanied by several other leaders of his leftist political organization, said "the election campaign has already begun, and the right-wing parties already are flooding the media with propaganda to fool the people and secure their votes."

Meanwhile, he added, repression is increasing, the death squads are on a "reactionary offensive," and the people are suffering the consequences of a social, political, and economic crisis. Aguinada Carranza pointed to the problems of unemployment, insufficient education, and lack of housing, among others.

The UDN leader stated: "We have decided not to participate in the elections, and we are not going to support any of the candidates registered for those elections."

He noted: "The forthcoming elections are not going to end the armed conflict, and they are not what the Salvadoran people want."

Analyzing the two largest parties in El Salvador—the PDC [Christian Democratic Party] and ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance]—Aguinada Carranza said the PDC "has waged war on the people on orders from the United States," while ARENA "represents the oligarchy, which is seeking hegemony and an alliance with the United States."

"In view of this situation," he said, "all segments of society must struggle for a negotiated political solution to the civil war, a solution that will take into consideration the interests of the majority of the people, who are being exploited and who have no way of resolving their deteriorating situation through manipulated elections."

He noted: "There is room for all Salvadorans in this effort to rescue national sovereignty and the people's self-determination, including the Armed Force's soldiers and officers, who could be 'agents of peace' instead of letting themselves be used in a war to defend the interests of the exploiters."

Aguinada Carranza stated: "The fatherland is making demands" from its people, and the people clearly understand now that "Duarte has lied and that Chavez Mena will also lie to them."

PDC Official Accuses ARENA of Fraud Plans

PA0912195988 San Salvador Canal Doce Television in Spanish 0300 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Jose Antonio Morales Ehrlich, secretary general of the Christian Democratic Party [PDC], reported today that ARENA [Nationalist Republican Alliance] is planning fraud in next year's presidential elections. He also said armed men have warned some Central Electoral Council [CCE] officials not to issue personal and voter identification cards.

Morales Ehrlich accused ARENA of committing fraud in the March elections and of preparing to pull a similar trick during the upcoming presidential elections. He said Francisco Merino, who was an ARENA councilman at the time of the March elections, hampered the issuance of 290,000 cards to properly registered citizens. In addition, he said, Merino annuled or voided 185,000 ballots. Morales Ehrlich explained:

"I have come here to expose both ARENA's fraud in the March elections and its plan to commit fraud in the 19 March 1989 presidential elections. In the March elections, ARENA perpetrated fraud right at the CCE. How did ARENA do this? They changed the voting sites on two lists. All who appeared to be PDC followers—remember that there were voting guides and that ARENA and Merino were in charge of vote counting at the CCE—were sent elsewhere. So, when persons arrived at their municipalities, they found their names were not on the expected list but on another. Yet these people never learned of the change until election day."

Morales Ehrlich, who quoted CCE figures during a news conference, said ARENA has proposed Electoral Code amendments with the sole purpose of ensuring an electoral fraud in March. He also said some ARENA leaders do not want 200,000 new personal and voter identification cards to be issued:

"[Major Roberto] D'Aubuisson and seven deputies visited the CCE a few days ago and arrogantly demanded that those 200,000 cards not be issued. The CCE ignored them, however, and consequently—these are the strange things that happen in this country—heavily armed men went to government officials' homes and threatened them in an attempt to stop them from issuing these cards."

In conclusion, he said the Supreme Court of Justice will issue a technical, legal, and political statement when it decides on the Electoral Code amendments, because the country's democratic system is at stake:

"I ask the Supreme Court of Justice: Will the honorable court legitimize fraud? The Court not only has to make a technical, legal, and political decision—because the Constitution has been violated—but the Court's word is final. The system is at stake. ARENA's problem is that it is antidemocratic and does not care for democracy. ARENA wants power and is even willing to risk the people's trust to achieve it. They will commit the most flagrant fraud because power is what they like and want."

Nicaragua

Communique Issued on 'Hijacked' Helicopter

PA1012000488 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Dec 88 p 5

[Communique issued on 7 December by the Foreign Ministry]

[Text] Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto sent a note today to his Honduran counterpart, Carlos Lopez Contreras, referring to the hijacked Sandinist Air Force [FAS] Mi-25 helicopter, registration number 355. The helicopter was hijacked by a person who was an FAS pilot until today, former Captain Edwin Estrada Leiva, who flew the helicopter into Honduran territory and landed at the Hernan Acosta Mejia Air Base, according to available information.

The foreign minister's note said that this criminal act was carried out for propaganda purposes and is a clumsy and malicious maneuver by the CIA to portray as a potential aggressor a country that has actually been, for the last 8 years, the victim of foreign aggression that has harmed over 55,000 victims. The note adds that the CIA planned this action to coincide with U.S. press reports that suggest a military intervention in our country.

In conclusion, Foreign Minister D'Escoto asked the Honduran Government, in compliance with the international agreements binding on our two countries, to return the hijacked aircraft and—as an emergency measure—order the arrest of Edwin Estrada Leiva for extradition. [Issued by] Press and Information Office, Managua, 7 December 1988

Plans To Return Helicopter

PA1012014388 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Dec 88 p 1

[Text] The Nicaraguan Government has demanded that Honduras return the Mi-25 helicopter hijacked by a CIA terrorist, former Captain Edwin Estrada Leiva. Nicaragua has also asked for the preventive detention of Estrada while proceeding with an extradition request.

Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel D'Escoto sent a note to Honduran Foreign Minister Carlos Lopez Contreras concerning Sandinist Air Force helicopter No 355, which landed at the Hernan Acosta Mejia Military Air Base in Honduras.

Press reports indicate that the Nicaraguan helicopter is in a Honduran Air Force hanger and has been seen only from a distance by several journalists; the Honduran infantry has cordoned off the area around the hanger.

On the Honduran Radio America newscast at 2200 on 7 December, journalist Napoleon Mairena Tercero said: "Radio America learned of the incident at 0700; at 0800 of the same day we were at the airport with Colonel Roberto Nunez Montes, from military intelligence, and asked him about the helicopter."

Mairena said that Colonel Nunez Montes said the helicopter will be returned by Honduras because diplomatic relations exist with Nicaragua.

It was not long ago that the CIA offered $1 million for hijacking an Mi-25; Nunez Montes replied that the offer was no longer valid because the CIA had obtained an Mi-25 in Afghanistan. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry said that this crime with its "publicity goals" is a clumsy CIA maneuver to present Nicaragua as an aggressive power after our country has suffered 8 years of foreign aggression that has claimed more than 55,000 victims. The Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry emphasized that the action was planned to coincide with the revelation of plans that suggest a military intervention against Nicaragua.

Murupuchi Post 'Harassed' by Honduras 7 Dec

PA1112002988 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2320 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Managua, 10 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—The Defense Ministry reported in Managua today that Honduran troops "harassed" an EPS post on the Nicaraguan northern border without causing any casualties.

The report said the incident took place on 7 December when members of the Honduran Armed Forces attacked the Murupuchi Military Post, 4 km north of Teotecacinte, Nueva Segovia Department, with rifle fire for 5 minutes.

The Defense Ministry adds that it has already started an investigation into this attack by soldiers of the neighboring country.

Ortega Condolences to Gorbachev Published

PA1012023088 Managua BARRICADA in Spanish 9 Dec 88 p 1

[Letter from President Daniel Ortega to Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, from Managua on 8 December]

[Text] Your Excellency

Mr Mikhail Gorbachev,
President of the Supreme Soviet and
General Secretary of the CPSU Central Committee

Dear Comrade:

With deep consternation, I have received reports of the high number of victims and the property damage caused by the devastating earthquake that shook northern Armenia and especially affected the cities of Leninokan and Kirovakan.

On behalf of the FSLN and the Nicaraguan people and Government, I express our sorrow in view of the tragic consequences of that earthquake. Through you I send a message of solidarity to the brother Soviet people, especially to the relatives of the victims of the earthquake.

I am sure the heroism and selflessness of the brave people of Lenin and their leaders, led by you, Comrade Gorbachev, will be decisive at this time of adversity.
Fraternally,
Daniel Ortega Saavedra

GDR Sends Relief Aid for Hurricane Victims

PA0912205688 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Summary] Foreign Cooperation Minister Commander Henry Ruiz yesterday received in Corinto a donation from the GDR people and Government for the victims of Hurricane Joan. The donation, which is worth over $50 million, consists of 200 tons of flour, 20 tons of semolina, 20 tons of powdered milk, 10 tons of canned beef, blankets, clothing, tents, and detergent, among other items. It also includes medicine and medical equipment worth $2.2 million. GDR Ambassador Mathias Dietrich said this donation is exclusively for the hurricane victims.

Panama

Ritter Comments on L.A. Parliament Meeting

PA1112195488 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2300 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] According to Panamanian Foreign Minister Dr Jorge Eduardo Ritter, the meeting of representatives of Latin American legislative and parliamentary bodies in Panama allows us to confirm the level of aggression against our country. The foreign minister stated:

[Begin recording] I think it is known that the opinions of legislative bodies do not always coincide with the opinions of their governments and executive branches. In this case, the fact that these parliamentary representatives are coming to Panama after other important meetings here of government and diplomatic representatives, such as the meeting of the Group of 77, helps to show our country's true situation to the parliamentary representatives, who are the essence of Latin American democracies. This allows them to see our country's reality with their own eyes. They will leave with a more accurate idea of what is happening in Panama, instead of the distorted ideas often disseminated by international press agencies. [end recording]

Noriega Meets Parliamentarians

PA1112202188 Panama City LA REPUBLICA DOMINICAL in Spanish 11 Dec 88 pp 1-A, 8-A

[Text] The members of the Latin American Parliament's Board of Directors today visited the Rio Hato military base. They were invited by General Manuel Antonio Noriega, Panama Defense Forces commander.

The representatives of the continent's 21 legislative assemblies, who met at the Justo Arosemena Palace yesterday to outline their working plan for the next year, walked through the military-agricultural installation with Legislative Assembly President Celso Carrizo and Gen Noriega.

The guests and their hosts later exchanged views at the Tomas Herrera Military Institute.

Carrizo said the parliamentarians' meeting bolstered the efforts for Latin American integration, which will "establish a single defensive position to confront those who want to attack us. Bolivar's dream of establishing Panama as a continental meeting place has been renewed with this visit."

Gen Noriega told the parliamentarians that he invited them to Rio Hato so they, who represent democracy in Latin America, could meet Panamanian soldiers "firsthand."

Noriega referred to the Panamanian people's nationalist, historic struggle against U.S. aggression and to his idea of the Panama Canal's defense and neutrality.

He said: "We want an interoceanic waterway that is neutral and open to all nations so it will not become a military target as the result of problems the U.S. Government might have."

Latin American Parliament President Humberto Pelaez thanked Noriega for the invitation and said this visit enabled the legislators to become acquainted with the Panamanian people's true situation.

He also said: Panama was not randomly selected as the site of this important meeting. It was selected because we want to be friends of the Panamanian people, who have been waging a tremendous struggle all by themselves. These parliamentarians have faith in the Latin American Parliament and know they will succeed in integrating Latin America.

Pelaez also said that not all members of this organization share the same political views. He said, however, that decisions are made by consensus and that the organization has been strengthened by its position in favor of Panama.

He added: We understand that the colossus of the North has tried to present to us a distorted image of this country's social and political reality. This is consistent with the old saying that a big fish will always want to swallow a smaller one. Pelaez noted:

"The United States, or rather the U.S. Government, keeps regarding us as possible colonies, but this Parliament intends to stick to the truth. The Parliament's main goal is to establish a great homeland of more than 400 million inhabitants—the homeland we inherited from our ancestors."

Pelaez concluded: "We will now leave, Gen Noriega, but you can rest assured that we will not change our minds. We will make ourselves heard even in the United States because, after all, we believe in Latin America. This is all we have to say. Our people will do the rest."

Seineldin's Wife Denies 'Foreign Intervention'

PA1012041788 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 9 Dec 88 pp 1, 6

["Text" of letter from Marta Alice Labeau de Seineldin, wife of Argentine Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, to the Panamanian people; dated 8 December in Panama City]

[Text] To the Panamanian people: In view of the confusing reports concerning the military events that took place in my country, I ask that you make public this letter in order to clarify this situation.

In the Republic of Argentina, my husband, Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin, led a military uprising with the purpose of "restoring the honor of the Army," asking, among other things, for the dismissal of the chief of staff and the termination of the trial against the chiefs and officers who fought the subversive guerrillas that wreaked havoc upon our country for more than 7 years.

The proclamation clearly established this was a "strictly military, and not political" proposal and that it respected the authority of President Alfonsin, who is the commander in chief of the Army.

This massive uprising of the Army ended since the proposals were not accepted.

Due to poor information received during these events, the [Panama] Defense Forces [FDP] have been associated with this action as collaborators. This is far from the truth, since the FDP would not intervene in the Argentine Army's internal problem. This action did not concern the FDP and the FDP did not stand to gain anything from it. My husband would have never accepted foreign intervention, no matter how friendly and beloved that country may be.

Through this letter, and at the request of my husband—who, for very obvious reasons, left without letting anyone know in order to keep his operation a secret—we wish to say goodbye to the officials, friends, chiefs, officers, and troops of the FDP, and very especially to General Noriega, under whose command my husband worked for 2 years on an official mission ordered by the executive branch of the Republic of Argentina. We also wish to thank everyone for everything, and for the decoration my husband received upon concluding his mission.
Thank you,
[Signed] Marta Alice Labeau de Seineldin.

Susan Davis in 'Campaign' Against Attache

PA0912150288 Panama City CRITICA in Spanish 8 Dec 88 pp 1, 14

[Text] Washington (Special Service)—We have learned that Ambassador Arthur Davis' daughter, Susan Davis, has been lobbying in Washington and other U.S. cities to have gringo journalists sent to Panama to implicate the Argentine military attache in the uprising led by Colonel Mohamed Ali Seineldin.

According to what Susan Davis has said in her campaign against General Avalon, the Argentine military attache in Panama, Avalon gave "Seineldin his total support and helped him leave Panama, unaware that they were under surveillance by Casa Rosada [Argentine Presidential Palace] intelligence." Col Seineldin led the recent uprising in Argentina.

It is also known that Susan Davis has said that last year Avalon arranged for Col Seineldin to enter Argentina undetected and without being searched. According to diplomatic sources in Washington, she wants to take advantage of the situation so that Argentina will take the chestnuts out of the fire for the United States and show that it is a good friend, even though the United States did not keep its word during the Malvinas war.

Paper Links Maisto With Philippines Violence

PA0912033688 [Editorial Report] Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish in its 7 December edition carries on pages 1 and 13 a UPI report with a Washington, 6 December dateline on human rights violations throughout the world in the past year.

The UPI report says that during a meeting commemorating its 10th anniversary, the Human Rights Watch organization presented its annual report on human rights violations, which stated that countries like Colombia, El

Salvador, Guatemala, Cuba, and the Philippines registered high levels of human rights violations in the past year. The report adds that seven political activists were killed in the Philippines in the past year.

LA REPUBLICA carries this UPI report under the following banner headline: "John Maisto [U.S. Embassy deputy chief of mission in Panama], Adviser in the Murder of Activists in the Philippines." The UPI report does not mention Maisto.

The report is accompanied by photos of Maisto and U.S. President Ronald Reagan along with the following caption: "His [Maisto's] work in that country, where more crimes of this nature have been committed, continues, leaving in its wake blood and violence from the imposition of Ronald Reagan's colonialist policy."

Guarantee for 'Honest, Democratic' Elections

PA1012132688 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Interview with Commerce and Industries Minister Mario Rognoni by unidentified reporter on 9 December; place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rognoni] The central government is committed to giving the people the opportunity to elect their officials by guaranteeing honest, democratic, and popular elections. This commitment—which has been reiterated by the Panama Defense Forces through their commander Manuel Antonio Noriega, by the government through President Manuel Solis Palma, and by the entire government team—is being fulfilled. We are guaranteeing that elections will be held, and we are all working to provide solutions to the country's social needs by guaranteeing the elections.

If the opposition parties—either because they are not organized or because they do not agree among themselves—believe they are not capable of participating in the elections, it would be a shame because they have had 5 years to get ready. Everyone knows that the Constitution calls for elections to be held in May. The Democratic Revolutionary Party and the National Democratic Union are organized and prepared. We will hold our congress on 16 December, and we are sure we will nominate the best candidates so the people can elect those who will govern them.

[Reporter] Will there be any reduction of government employees before the elections?

[Rognoni] The government has been highly responsible in ensuring that its expenditures match its revenues. In this regard, there have been cuts in investments, expenditures, leases, and services, but any additional cuts will be the result of a political discussion among the government parties. The participation of groups such as the National Federation of Associations of Public Employees, which obviously is also interested in the future of all government employees, will be considered.

PPA Official on PALA, Upcoming Convention

PA0912033088 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Statement by Guillermo Endara, political committee member of Authentic Panamenist Party, PPA; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Begin recording] The Labor Party's separation from the PRD [Democratic Revolutionary Party] is well justified. The Labor Party [PALA] has shown great patience and tolerance by staying with such tarantulas for more than 4 years. To stay with the PRD must have caused them great suffering because that party does not respect anybody's rights and only thinks about itself. Therefore, PALA's separation from the National Democratic Union, UNADE, is totally understandable.

Regarding a union of PALA with the PPA, I must say that everybody knows our party's ideology because it is the ideology of [former PPA leader] Arnulfo Arias Madrid. Everyone knows that our party is basically democratic, civilian, nonmilitary, and very nationalist. These qualities, strongly endorsed by Arnulfo Arias, are required of those wishing to make an alliance with the PPA. PALA should, first, join all Panamanians in their struggle to gain the freedom of the large number of political prisoners. There are many Arnulfist youth [followers of former PPA leader Arnulfo Arias] who have been imprisoned for no reason and against their constitutional rights.

All PPA members in the country know that [PPA Secretary General] Hildebrando Nicosia was dismissed from the party by Arnulfo Arias Madrid some time in 1984. Since then, Nicosia has had nothing to do with the PPA. Even though Nicosia still holds a party post, he has not performed the duties of that post since 1984. The convention [11 December convention called by Nicosia] will not be Panamenist; it will not be a Panamenist Party convention. You can see that none of the highest party leaders will be represented at that convention. [end recording]

PPA Inside Political Maneuvering Examined

PA1112044788 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] Authentic Panamenist Party [PPA] President Jorge Pacifico Adames was appointed coordinator of the permanent council of the Panamanian National Civic Crusade [CNN], an organization composed of private and civic groups and opposition political parties.

Adames' appointment is for 1 month beginning today. In statements to reporters, Adames discussed local politics:

[Adames, in progress] "...and wants to eliminate us. They [not further identified] know very well that in an election, the large majority, which is us—the opposition political parties and the CNN—would win by 100 points."

Adames also talked about attempts being made by [PPA leader] Hildebrando Nicosia to take control of the PPA. He said that to attain his goal, Nicosia is calling a party convention in Anton this weekend.

[Adames] "We do not think that is a serious convention. It is a ghost convention, based on fraud."

[PPA leader] Guillermo Endara stressed that they will prevent other elements from destroying the PPA, the party founded by Arnulfo Arias Madrid:

[Endara] "They [not further identified] will try to take away any party we form. Why? Because they think people are loyal to the legal setup [cascaron legal] of political parties while, in fact, people follow leaders and ideology. People follow those who are, in turn, loyal to them. We learned that from Arnulfo Arias. We are aware that we are destined to lose our legal setup. However, we will form a new party at the proper time or we will reclaim the current party, if they succeed in taking it away from us. We will fight hard to keep our party."

The PPA leaders ruled out the possibility of forming an alliance with the Panamanian Labor Party [PALA].

[Adames] "We must take the PPA's ideology into account. Arnulfo Arias taught us that ideology. I see no similarities between the PPA and PALA ideology at all."

Meanwhile, Hildebrando Nicosia, who leads the other PPA faction, is optimistic about this weekend's convention despite rumors that he is alone in his attempt to take control of the PPA. Nicosia said the Anton convention on 11 December will take place and the PPA will make important decisions there.

Planning Minister Discusses Foreign Debt

PA1112185288 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2312 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Panama City, 9 Dec (ACAN-EFE)—Gustavo Gonzalez, Panama's minister of planning and economic policy, today said that no Latin American country will make its foreign debt situation easier "by negotiating on its own with international banks."

Gonzalez, who will attend a meeting of the Group of Eight's economy ministers in Brasilia on 11 December, advocates "common integration accords to apply greater pressure over the debt issue." The planning minister pointed out that Latin American countries must "join efforts to secure advantageous repayment conditions that would lead to development in their respective economic systems."

In statements to ACAN-EFE, Gonzalez proposed "consultations on and coordination of" conditions that will favor a servicing of the debt "that will not interrupt the development plans of debtor nations."

As for the amortization of the Panamanian foreign debt, the minister said his country paid $700 million each year over the past 5 years. He said that the amortization totalled $960 million in the past 5 years, while Panama paid $1.1 billion in interest alone to international banks in that period.

Minister Gonzalez said that $1.2 billion in payments from abroad were received during the same 5-year period. He added that this included "exports of $1.1 billion to industrialized countries."

According to figures provided by Minister Gonzalez, Panama's foreign debt stands at $3.8 billion, the highest per capita debt in Latin America.

Opposition Legislator Views Economic Situation

PA0912143088 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2313 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Interview with Jorge Ruben Rosas, Nationalist Liberal Republican Movement legislator, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] [Rosas] We are clearly facing bankruptcy. The current budget will cover 50 or 55 percent of the country's essential needs. Revenues have dropped to around 57 percent of last year's level—that is, from a total of $1.0835 billion that were collected in 1987, revenues will hardly reach $600 million in 1988. As for these revenues, one must take into account the money that is being withheld by the U.S. Government, which amounts to $165 million, according to the planning and economic policy minister himself. The rest of the money was not collected because of the critical situation in the country.

As of 30 September, the public debt was $4.8241 billion. To this figure we should add the nearly $700 million in interest that has not been paid to creditors since mid-1987. Nothing was paid in 1988. We must add the government's overdraft in the National Bank of Panama, which amounts to more than $600 million. We should also add the unpaid bills to suppliers; we should add the checks that have been issued without sufficient funds; and we must add the discounts made to public employees and not paid to creditors. The government is bankrupt. I do not see how it will be able to get financial aid if the country's public finances and the fiscal situation are a disaster.

The economic situation could not be any worse. Unemployment has increased. Over 60,000 workers have lost their jobs this year, increasing the unemployment rate to more than 20 percent. Few countries in Latin America have a higher unemployment rate—maybe only Haiti has a higher unemployment rate than Panama.

We have a deep crisis situation, and the worse thing is that there is no awareness or sense of responsibility that a solution is needed to stop the people's suffering. The fiscal crisis cannot be solved by the current government or by those currently in power. Changes are necessary, and the government needs to reach an understanding with the opposition. Officials must be willing to give in. I believe the ruling parties are irresponsible because they are still thinking the current situation can be continued with the use of force. An understanding is needed to end the crisis that is hurting the Panamanian people.

[Reporter] This year the government used the same budget it used in 1988. Could the same thing occur in 1989?

[Rosas] I cannot see how the Legislative Assembly can approve a draft budget so unbalanced as the draft budget presented by the executive branch. The Constitution prohibits this. I do not see any way that a budget can be approved under these circumstances.

Legislator Criticizes Lack of Canal Planning

PA1012012388 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Interview with legislator Luis Gomez, of the ruling Democratic Revolutionary Party, PRD, by unidentified reporter at the Legislative Assembly; date not given—recorded]

[Text] PRD legislator Luis Gomez has said that the canal's future labor force is not being planned. He recommended heeding a warning made by Fernando Manfredo, deputy canal administrator:

[Begin recording] [Gomez] This is a situation that Mr Manfredo has repeatedly warned us about on several occasions when this [Legislative] Assembly has been convened. We Panamanians have not yet realized the significance of the canal area and the blood of our martyrs. We are really neglecting our commitments because certain Panamanians have concluded that it is better to have the gringos stay than to have Panamanians run the canal, because they realize that certain segments of the population show no interest in drafting a unilateral Panamanian law—much like Law 97-70—to regulate the implementation of the Torrijos-Carter treaties and the administration of the reverted areas. The canal area stands as a symbol of our neglect.

[Reporter] What can be done about this?

[Gomez] Seven draft laws have been presented in this assembly. During a Cabinet Council meeting, we proposed revising them because every draft law to a certain degree has sought to benefit a certain segment of the population. Someone here made an analysis of real estate values in the canal area and based a draft law on it. In another instance, when a commission was created—much like a separate ministry—to administer the canal, bureaucratic positions were also created and an attempt was made to turn the canal area into a 10th province. All these things have prevented the passage of a comprehensive legislative package for the canal area. This is irresponsible on the part of us in the government, the opposition, and the Panamanian people. [end recording]

Colon Free Zone Increases Trade Volume

PA0912050288 Panama City Circuito RPC Television in Spanish 2300 GMT 6 Dec 88

[Interview with Verya Remon, general manager of the Colon Free Zone, by unidentified reporter; date and place not given—recorded]

[Text] Verya Remon, general manager of the Colon Free Zone, has said that the experience of the zone's businessmen has kept business afloat and that alternatives are being sought with the Banking Commission.

[Begin recording] [Remon] "The movement of trade up to the end of September is $2.819 billion; that is, the sum of re-exports of $1.533 billion and imports of $1.285 billion. The increase has been positive in spite of the present situation.

Many companies want to establish businesses in the free zone, either directly or through already established companies. We are working on this to bring down Colon's unemployment rate.

[Unidentified reporter] Mrs Remon, having assumed the administration of the Colon Free Zone in this difficult period, what plans do you have for the zone?

[Remon] It is a difficult time, as you have said, but we are going to continue promoting the Colon Free Zone to try to bring down unemployment in Colon. We are working very enthusiastically with the business sector. Free zone personnel are very competent and know the problems we have there.

[Reporter] Taking into consideration the banking problems and restrictions, does the business sector face any economic problems in re-exporting? What are the free zone's plans to resolve this situation?

[Remon] The experience of free zone businessmen has been acquired over many years. They have found their own alternatives in solving their financing problems. They are working with foreign financing and I believe the Banking Association will soon have good news for the free zone businessmen because, since they are located in a segregated area, they should have received another type of service to finance their businesses.

Argentina

Nicaraguan Vice President To Arrive 13 Dec

PY0912190988 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1453 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (TELAM)—Ariel Granera Sacasa, Nicaraguan ambassador to Buenos Aires [as received] today held a meeting with Ambassador Alberto Ferrari Etcheverry, the under secretary for Latin American affairs.

Upon leaving the Foreign Ministry, Granera said he came to the Foreign Ministry to inform officials about the private visit that Nicaraguan Vice President Sergio Ramirez will pay to Argentina beginning 13 December. He added that Vice President Ramirez will be in Argentina to present his new book entitled: "Divine Punishment" [Castigo Divino].

Granera Sacasa also said that despite the fact that Ramirez will be on a private visit, he is scheduled to hold meetings with Argentine authorities, such as President Raul Alfonsin and Foreign Ministry officials. Granera Sacasa added: Through these meetings, Nicaragua will be reasserting its support for the Argentine institutional process.

Embassy on Uprising, Panamanian Regime's Response

PA1112193088 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 11 Dec 88 pp A-1, C-12

[Communique issued by the Embassy in Panama City on 10 December]

[Text] With regard to the coup attempt in Argentina, which was ultimately crushed, the Argentine ambassador to Panama hereby states:

1. The illegal, irrational nature of the actions carried out by a group of deluded people who took up arms against the Argentine constitutional order can be clearly seen from a simple reading of Article 22 of the Argentine Constitution, which states:

"The people do not deliberate or govern except through their representatives and the authorities created by this constitution. Any armed force or group of people who assume for themselves the rights of the people or the right to petition in the people's name will be guilty of sedition."

2. The rebellion carried out by a tiny military group culminated in the unconditional surrender of the rebels and the prosecution of their leader.

3. Any attempt by spokesmen for the rebels to praise the illegal episode here in Panama has been thwarted by the spontaneous decisions of Panamanian President Manuel Solis Palma and Foreign Minister Jorge Ritter, who, in separate contacts with [Argentine President] Dr Raul Alfonsin and [Argentine Foreign Minister] Dante Caputo, emphatically condemned the uprising and expressed their solidarity with the Argentine constitutional order.

4. Because certain reports disseminated by some media in Panama—reports that originated from spokesmen for the rebels—try to deny that the abortive uprising was a coup attempt, we must repeat once again that one honors institutions by respecting the law, not by violating it.

Ambassador Bernardo Sola

Corps Commander Denies Caridi Retirement Plans

PY1012023888 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2336 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Cordoba, 9 Dec (TELAM)—III Corps Commander General Roberto Dominguez has denied here that Army Chief of Staff Lieutenant General Dante Caridi has expressed his intention to request retirement before the end of the year. Gen Dominguez reaffirmed that in Cordoba there was no crisis because no rebellious action took place.

Gen Dominguez made these remarks after the installation of Colonel Artemio Barreiro as deputy commander of the 4th Airborne Infantry Brigade headquartered in this city.

Dominguez stressed the need to help develop democracy, and called on the whole society to consolidate the institutions, including the Armed Forces.

Col Barreiro replaced General Adolfo Etcheun, who said he had asked to retire for personal reasons.

Battalion, Brigade Commanders Appointed

101st Arsenal

PY0912201388 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1854 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (NA)—The Army General Staff has appointed Lieutenant Colonel Efrain Tello as the new commander of the 101st Arsenal Battalion of Villa Martelli.

The Army communique says:

"In keeping with the measures aimed at reorganizing the units affected by the recent military events, early this afternoon Arsenals Director General Hector Gargiulo installed Lieutenant Colonel Daniel Efrain Tello as the new commander of the 101st Arsenal Battalion of Villa Martelli.

"Regarding the 10th Logistical Battalion, its new chief will be installed in the next few hours by General Eugenio Dalton, commander of the 10th Mechanized Infantry Brigade.

10th Mechanized Infantry

PY1012005288 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 2130 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (NA)—Just before 1930 the Army officially released the following communique:

"Brigadier General Eugenio Dalton, commander of the 10th Mechanized Infantry Brigade, today installed Major Guillermo Alberto Muzzio as the new commander of the 10th Logistic Battalion. His predecessor is under military court investigation."

2d Armored Cavalry

PY1012164588 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1451 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Parana, 10 Dec (TELAM)—General Hugo Savino Fernandez, commander of the 2d Armored Cavalry Brigade today installed Colonel Jorge Alberto Cosa as the new deputy commander and chief of staff of that unit. Col Cosa is replacing Colonel Elvio Jose Flores who retired.

6th Mechanized Regiment

PY0912173388 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1623 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Buenos Aires, 9 Dec (TELAM)—The Army General Staff at 1400 today reported that Lieutenant Colonel Carlos Antonio Mina has been appointed commander of the 6th Mechanized Infantry Regiment in Mercedes. The General Staff also reported that Major Hugo Abete, who rebelled last weekend, has been arrested. Thus, the situation at that military unit has returned to normal.

Herewith text of the Army General Staff communique:

This morning General Eugenio Daltio, commander of the 10th Infantry Brigade installed Lt Col Carlos Antonio Mina as commander of the 6th Mechanized Infantry Regiment in Mercedes, Buenos Aires Province.

That military unit has thus returned to normal as far as personnel and facilities are concerned and has resumed usual activities.

Maj Hugo Reynaldo Abete is being held in custody at a military unit of the Buenos Aires garrison.

* Malnutrition Seen in Rural, Urban Areas

33480019d Buenos Aires EL NUEVO PERIODISTA in Spanish 13 Oct 88 pp 47-49

[Article by Horacio Cecchi]

[Text] "There are 50 or 60 of them. We give them the leftovers at closing time, so that they will not hang around and frighten the customers." Marcos A., the manager of a pizzeria in the very heart of the capital city (in the 1400 block of Corrientes), explained the long line waiting at the door of the shop. It was 2:15 in the morning. The date is unimportant, because, as Marcos A. said, "They come every day." The system is simple. The door is opened and the first in line enters. Soon he emerges again with some food scraps in a little bag. This time, he has won out over the garbage can. The door closes, a short time passes, and then it opens again. The next in line enters, and so on successively until the last leaves with his little bag full. In this country nothing matters but to eat, to continue to eat.

"I lost my job 7 months ago," Ricardo, the eighth in line, said. "Me too," said a woman, to the nodding agreement of the others, who perhaps preferred to say nothing. Two aspects of the whole scene were notable. On the one hand, one hardly sees any of the "idlers" who represented the social justification for hunger some decades back. The majority of those waiting in line do not appear to be of that type, although the statistical reports list them as indigent. Secondly, we noted where this scene occurred—three blocks from the Obelisk. Hunger in Argentina seems to have lost its clandestine status, and is advancing at the rate dictated by the crisis.

Argentine Hunger

What does hunger mean to the citizens of Argentina? For some, it is a tickle in the stomach one or two times a day, while for others it represents a daily obstacle to staying alive. Generally speaking, Argentina offers a picture very different from the swollen belly of the Biafran child. But this distance is a purely formal one. Argentine hunger does not kill directly, but does so through infectious diseases, parasites, and toxicity resulting from malnutrition. Evidence of it is not even seen so much in the mortality rate as in the consequences to which it leads in living beings. It suffices to quote a recent report from the Ministry of Social Action in the province of Buenos Aires, which indicates that a quarter of the children under 5 in greater Buenos Aires who suffer from malnutrition, that is to say approximately 84,000 children, were born with this condition. Their mothers could not nourish them adequately during pregnancy. In other words, they too were malnourished.

In 1973, the National Institute of Agricultural Technology (INTA) concluded that more than 30 percent of the population (6.6 million persons, at that time) suffered from nutritional deficiencies. In 1981, the figure had increased to 7.6 million, the National Statistics and Census Institute (INDEC) states in its "Study on Poverty in Argentina." Taking population trends and the level of the economic crisis into account, it is a very likely inference that the number of individuals with nutritional difficulties, a third of whom are at a critical subsistence level, with no prospects for dietary improvement, far exceeds 10 million today.

Where are the Argentine citizens who are ill-nourished? Several decades ago, this question had little meaning for the people of Buenos Aires, although one had only to go beyond the limits of this great city to find another reality. The potential for proper nourishment has always been more limited in the interior of the country. Today, in the poorest provinces, more than half of the population survives without having the basic needs, nutrition among them, satisfied. The figure for Formosa is 54.4 percent, that for Chaco 52.1 percent, and that for Santiago del Estero 51.7 percent, according to the INDEC report.

But what was a daily reality for those in the interior has become visible through multiplied symptoms to the unaccustomed eye of the middle-class resident of Buenos Aires. This is clear from a simple consideration of the dark belt of slums surrounding the greater Buenos Aires area and the 17 shantytowns in the capital city itself. They contain 400,000 individuals, a large portion of whom feed on scraps. To his difficulties in maintaining his dwindling family food basket, the resident of Buenos Aires must now add the picture of concealed hunger which is beginning to knock at the door of his conscience, and also his home. Hunger is no longer hidden behind the image of the "other," the Biafran.

"They are returning in ever larger numbers. They come in, they beg from the people and they leave," says Mario Avila, who is strategically located as a waiter in a traditional pasta restaurant on Montevideo Street. "At the least busy times, we let some of them, whom we know, sit down. They eat up all of the bread and sometimes we give them a plate of pasta. The customers are not aware of this, because it just appears we have more business."

The "returnees" of which Avila spoke make a daily circuit in search of food. They are not always so lucky. Some places prefer to serve their customers behind closed doors. "We do not give anything to those people," an unidentified counterman at a pizzeria in the 1300 block of Corrientes said about the "pests who beg," as he placed a note for a large cheese pizza in the cash box.

The armies of the poor are usually waiting at the gates of the central market, where some stall owners take pity on them, filling sacks with the green vegetables which were not sold during the day. At other times, they raid the garbage cans. Some gather at an early hour beside the carts on La Costanera, waiting for the cooks who are cutting meat to toss them the scraps which cannot be sold.

Undernourished Children

"We are facing a nutritional emergency," Alberto Cormillot warned when he was minister of social action for the province of Buenos Aires. "More than 330,000 children suffer from serious malnutrition, and a quarter of these weighed less than 2.5 kg at birth." Obviously, this expert was speaking of his own area, for throughout the country as a whole, there are more than 2 million children under 5 years of age living under these conditions.

Geographically, hunger is associated with "pockets of poverty," in which substandard housing, inadequate plumbing and sewage services, infectious and parasitic diseases, the low level of education, and labor problems create a cycle of mutual dependence.

"The lunches in the school dining rooms on Mondays are insufficient, because the children arrive after the weekend with empty stomachs," Cormillot said in completing his picture. " The school lunches represent an effort which is not solving the problem," according to Juan Carlos Escudero, a public health doctor, sociologist and expert on nutritional problems. "Those who reach the age at which the school dining room can help them are the survivors." Malnutrition kills up to the age of 2, after which it becomes chronic. Unable to escape the pockets of poverty, children under 5, pregnant and nursing women represent the groups at highest risk. But death is only one of the risks. The report of the Social Action Department quoted a study made in La Matanza in 1984. It said that "of every 100 children suffering from malnutrition, 75 have behavioral and learning problems. A half of them chronically have to repeat grade levels, and they show various degrees of a mental deficiency known as pseudodiprophenia or preventable oligophrenia, as well as having symptoms of apathy, sad eyes, anguished weeping, swollen bellies, reddened or bumpy skin, and limbs with rickets in varying degrees." This is closer to the picture of the Biafran child.

To this description must be added "dental caries, anemia and hemorrhages, diarrhea, scaling of the skin, stunted growth, marasmus, nervous degeneration, blindness and other physical damage, most of which is irreversible."

In some of the new settlements, the residents are trying to mitigate the problems with aid measures. At Settlement 20 in Lugano, Sister Alejandrina is providing meals "for more than 50 children of all ages every day. There are infants under 2, and some are children as old as 14. Often they come with their mothers, for they have nothing to eat either." Alejandrina is known in the settlement, because she has kept a children's dining room going through her efforts and those of her associates. The minimal government aid comes down to a few cases of food provided by the PAN [National Food Program] and a limited subsidy for paying the kitchen aides.

"The problem is social exclusion," states Father Juan Gutierrez, who serves in the pastorate of General Belgrano Settlement 15, "formerly known as Hidden City," he adds pointedly. "In the slums in the capital city and the province the problem is not the shortage of resources, as is the case in the rural sector. Here we have job opportunities within reach; the central market is only a few steps away; and there is drinking water all around us. But those of us in the slums do not have access to any of these resources because of our social status."

This same state of neglect is reported by the INDEC in the "Study on Poverty." "...the failure to satisfy various basic needs is reflected in a syndrome of deterioration in the human condition, or inability to participate adequately in the life of society."

Father Gutierrez, working with 200 families in Settlement 15, organized a neighborhood storehouse in an effort to reduce costs by eliminating middlemen.

The Argentine Granary

According to the "1985 Report on Health in Argentina," a study drafted jointly by the national Ministry of Health and Social Action (headed by Aldo Neri at that time) and the Pan American Health Organization, "The Argentine diet ranks boasts one of the highest world levels in terms of reported consumption of meat, dairy products, oils, fats and fruits." The report gives the per capita average as 3,155 calories, with 104.7 grams of protein. These figures are almost 40 percent and 500 percent above the respective daily requirement levels and almost equal the consumption in the United States. If this country is producing and consuming, who is eating the portions of the 10 million hungry persons?

The fact that Argentina continues to be regarded by the world as a granary is indicated by the INDEC in the figures it gives on our trade exchange with foreign countries. In 1987, 2,615 tons of livestock on the hoof, 146,568 tons of meat, 233,968 tons of fish, 42,407 tons of dairy products and 27,149 tons of other animal byproducts were exported. In the plant products category, exports included 193,548 tons of vegetables, 465,996 tons of fruits, 52,148 tons of coffee, 9,340,782 tons of grains, and 48,729 tons of starches and flours. The balance for the food category was favorable, with $1.5 billion being pocketed. The granary of the world continues to produce.

"It is not a question of technical problems in production or exhaustion of supplies," Escudero agrees. Everything which needs to be known to eliminate malnutrition is known, and there is every possibility of doing so without any major investments."

Cases of Food

The PAN was a government program designed to resolve the nutritional crisis. While from the very beginning it suffered from a seriously limited capacity to "put an end to the hunger trend in Argentina," which the authorities hoped it could do, its palliative nature, especially in the sectors where something is better than nothing, cannot be denied.

Powdered milk, sugar, flour, pasta, beans, rice, corned beef and oil were included in each family distribution box, but at the beginning, only a third of the required calories were provided. The Ministry of Health and Social Action found itself forced within a year to increase the beneficiaries from 1 million to 2.8 million individuals. And this number still fell far short of the 10 million citizens currently suffering from malnutrition.

"The PAN food box does not meet the need at all, and it is providing ever less," the residents of Settlement 15 say. "A can of tomatoes, a can of some green vegetable, a packet of sugar and a few other little things. Sometimes they do not even put in milk. And this is supposed to serve a family with children for the entire month."

"The PAN food box is only a Band-Aid which does not remedy malnutrition, but while this situation continues, it is better than nothing," Escudero says. "The thing is, it should be incorporated in a plan with popular participation, wherein the community would distribute its foodstuffs according to its own priorities. For the time being, the PAN is a vertical mechanism imposed by the government."

The authorities say that the PAN budget has been maintained at real value since 1984 (see table), and if this does indeed represent an achievement in light of the real increase in the numbers suffering from malnutrition and the reduction in the number of boxes for distribution, it represents a retreat in the subsidy policy for the sector, pure and simple.

The Figures On Hunger

	Total Population	NBI Population*	NBI Children 0-5*
Federal Capital	2,797,719	231,782	37,437
Buenos Aires	10,734,839	2,607,922	691,350
Catamarca	204,196	87,039	24,126
Cordoba	2,361,074	529,753	132,535
Corrientes	648,354	303,818	83,741
Chaco	690,433	359,857	105,154
Chubut	250,627	87,343	26,797
Entre Rios	892,900	292,979	76,630
Formosa	292,363	159,072	46,063
Jujuy	403,405	196,892	60,309
La Pampa	202,506	44,379	11,170
La Rioja	161,958	59,224	16,505
Mendoza	1,177,059	287,076	77,229
Misiones	580,522	263,424	78,684
Neuquen	232,762	93,507	28,905
Rio Negro	374,137	145,707	42,627
Salta	653,070	305,776	89,524
San Juan	461,789	142,404	39,462
San Luis	209,802	67,019	17,042
Santa Cruz	103,769	27,245	7,598
Santa Fe	2,423,827	595,239	161,350
Santiago del Estero	585,155	302,681	83,345
Tucuman	958,598	406,748	116,875

The Figures On Hunger

	Total Population	NBI Population*	NBI Children 0-5*
Tierra del Fuego	23,135	6,356	1,607
Total	27,423,999	7,603,332	2,056,065

* NBI is the unsatisfied basic needs indicator, including homes with more than three persons per room and/or inadequate housing or rental premises and/or housing without a bathroom and/or a child of school age who is not enrolled and/or income below the subsistence level.
Source: 1984 INDEC Study on Poverty in Argentina.

Right in the heart of the capital, a few blocks from the Congress building, two public dining rooms are serving more than 2,000 individuals every day at somewhat reduced prices. They include workers and pensioners, and the majority are office employees trying to satisfy their hunger at a price they can afford. One facility is run by a parochial institution and another has been set up in a supermarket. With an economic menu at half the price of an ordinary lunch, hunger can be satisfied.

[Box, p 48] Another Kettle of Fish

Three main criticisms are currently being voiced by the beneficiaries of the PAN program. They pertain to the reduction in the contents of the food boxes, the decrease in the number of boxes distributed, and the infrequency of distribution, which is supposed to be monthly.

"What is in the boxes varies," admits Dr Arturo Gonzalez Martin, executive vice president of this body. "What we have determined is that the caloric value of the foodstuffs, calculated at approximately 6,500 calories per box, is being maintained.

"The products vary with seasonal requirements, and in other cases the variation is because a product is in short supply on the market and its price is very high. Another factor is that the demand on us is very great, and we do not want to run out of supplies."

Gonzalez Martin admits that the number of boxes distributed has been reduced, but he stresses some other aspects. "We can state that malnutrition in infants has declined from 15 percent in 1984 to 5 percent among children between 1 and 8 years of age thanks to the PAN administration," this official emphasizes. "We began with 1.5 million boxes, while today we have been able to reduce those distributed to 1.2 million. In other words, there are 20 percent fewer needy persons."

In June of last year, according to this official, the PAN distributed 1,208,979 boxes throughout the country "on a budget of 1.2 billion australs. Only 8 percent goes for administrative costs," he assured us. "The remaining 92 percent goes to help the needy," at a cost of 1,000 australs per box.

Bolivia

Press Union To Protest Presence of U.S. Troops

PY0912130088 La Paz La Red Panamericana in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Tonight the Federation of Press Workers will hold its Wake for Sovereignty [Vigilia por la Soberania], according to its executive secretary Lupe Cajias. According to Cajias, the wake is being held to protest the presence of U.S. troops in Bolivia.

[Begin Cajias recording] We have received reports from various places in Bolivia stating that there are U.S. soldiers in Viacha, Cobija, and Beni. Nobody seems to be doing or saying anything about this. It is a pity the way things are run in this country and we believe that even if there are Bolivians prepared to bow their heads and take anything, there are bound to be some patriots who do not agree with the presence of U.S. soldiers in our country. [end recording]

Congress: Garcia Meza 'In Contempt of the Law'

PY0912205688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1729 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] La Paz, 9 Dec (EFE)—Today the Bolivian Congress declared former de facto president Luis Garcia Meza "in contempt of the law" because he refused to testify before a Congressional Committee that accused him of being responsible for the theft of the diaries of the Cubans, Ernersto "Che" Guevara and Harri "Pombo" Villegas.

Garcia Meza was discharged from the Armed Forces because of his responsibility in the bloody coup of 17 July 1982 which overthrew a democratic government. He was ordered to testify before a Congressional Committee in Sucre where he is being tried on orders from the Supreme Court.

German Gantier Ortega, president of the Chamber of Deputies Constitutional, Justice and Judicial Police Committee, today said in a press conference that Garcia Meza did not comply with an order to testify and that he has made mockery of the law.

Gantier said that in addition to being declared in contempt of the law, a warrant for the arrest of Garcia Meza will be issued.

The Congressional resolution also calls on Interior Minister Juan Carlos Duran to report to Congress on the measures to be taken by the government in this case.

Drug Traffickers, Informers Clash in San Ramon

*PY0912230588 La Paz PRESENCIA in Spanish
4 Dec 88 p 5 Sec B*

[Summary] Santa Cruz, 4 Dec—Colonel Vitalio Perez, director of the Santa Cruz Narcotics Department, has disclosed that a group of alleged informers clashed with drug traffickers in the San Ramon region of Nufle de Chavez Province, which is located 187 km from Santa Cruz. Perez reported that an Argentine informer named Ricardo Dipp Garcia was killed in the clash.

Antidrug Force Unit Destroys Cocaine Laboratory

*PY0912130488 La Paz La Red Panamericana
in Spanish 1130 GMT 9 Dec 88*

[Text] A unit of special antidrug forces has destroyed a cocaine processing laboratory near San Julian River. According to Humberto Palacios, commander of the special antidrug force, an UMOPAR platoon was taken to the San Julian River, Nuflo de Chavez province, Santa Cruz Department, where the platoon carried out an operation to capture the carefully camouflaged cocaine processing laboratory.

According to the report, the factory included many multipurpose sheds which contained a great deal of preparatory agents, sleeping and cooking facilities, distilling equipment, outboard motors and drying equipment.

National Reserves, Treasury Surplus Reported

*PY1012143188 La Paz EL DIARIO in Spanish
30 Nov 88 pp 3, 5*

[Summary] Central Bank Chairman Jacques Trigo has reported that net national reserves amount to $400 million, and gross reserves to more than $100 billion.

The Finance Ministry has officially reported that, on 30 September, the National General Treasury registered a 34-million bolivianos surplus.

Brazil

Sarney Sends Solidarity Telegram to Gorbachev

*PY0912230388 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television
in Portuguese 2155 GMT 9 Dec 88*

[Text] President Jose Sarney today sent a telegram to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev, extending the Brazilian people's regret and solidarity with the victims of the earthquake in the Armenian Republic.

Iraq Wants License To Manufacture Tucano Planes

*PY0812123688 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO
PAULO
in Portuguese 7 Dec 88 p 20*

[Excerpt] Sao Jose dos Campos—The Brazilian Aeronautics Company [EMBRAER] has been negotiating secretly with the Iraqi Government for a license to manufacture a minimum of 40 Tucano EMB-312 training planes at a cost of $100 million in the industrial district of Baghdad . The contract includes the basic price of a single plane, established at $1.9 million, plus the components and support materials. The Iraqi Air Force is currently operating some 80 Tucanos built in and turned over by Egypt, and has the option of purchasing more under the current contract. According to EMBRAER spokesman Antonio Augusto de Oliveira, an increase in the number of planes under the binational contract is being discussed right now. [passage omitted]

National Congress Approves 1989 National Budget

*PY0912233188 Rio de Janeiro Rede Globo Television
in Portuguese 2155 GMT 9 Dec 88*

[Excerpt] The National Congress has approved the Government Budget for 1989. The session was fast and controversial. In only 3 minutes the National Congress fully approved the proposed 1989 budget. There was a total of only 40 deputies and senators in the plenary session. The presence of congressmen was not important because the voting was only symbolic. Only the leaders voted, representing their party blocs.

The result was received with burning irritation by government leader Carlos Sant'Anna, and by Deputy Jose Serra, who had presented an amendment in which they proposed cutting all funds for the North-South railways project.

Serra began to argue with Senator Carneiro of the PMDB, Santa Catarina State, who was presiding over the session when the budget was approved. [passage omitted]

Chile

Colombia's Londono on Antarctic Treaty, Narcotics

*PY0912165988 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish
0930 GMT 9 Dec 88*

[Report from Punta Arenas by Rene Zigli]

[Text] Colombia will be the 28th country to sign the Antarctic Treaty. Colombia's immediate plans include sending a scientific expedition in 1989 to conduct research work on marine fauna and flora and study the possibility of building a base in the Antarctic.

This information was disclosed by Colombian Foreign Minister Julio Londono Paredes, who arrived in the Magallanes Region accompanied by Colombian Government officials and Chilean Foreign Ministry officials to visit the FACh's [Chilean Air Force] Teniente Marsh Base.

The Colombian foreign minister, who has already visited Chile and is especially familiar with the Magallanes Region, including Cape Horn, is very pleased with the warm reception he has been enjoying in our country.

Concerning the Antarctic Treaty, Londono said that it will be signed in the next few days and that preparations are already being made for a Colombian oceanographic ship, with geologists and zoologists aboard, to make a trip to Antarctica to conduct research work.

Asked about the Colombian way of confronting the scourge of drug trafficking and terrorism, Minister Londono emphatically said that his country has waged an all-out war on drug trafficking to the point that in the past 6 months alone, the armed and security forces have seized 17,000 kg of cocaine and large quantities of marijuana, as well as airplanes, vehicles, deep-sea boats, and other items used by drug traffickers.

Londono said that the struggle not only includes drug traffickers, but all those colluding in criminal activities, no matter if they are high-ranking government officials, simple policemen, or individuals who in one way or another have cooperated with criminals.

Concerning his country's efforts to eradicate this scourge, Londono reiterated the Colombian position that Colombia and a group of countries are not engaged in this mighty task alone; the industrialized nations, who are the main drug consumers and the ones providing incentives for the drug traffickers, should also contribute significantly to this task.

The Colombian foreign minister and his entourage will return to Santiago on 10 December after visiting different places in Punta Arenas, including museums and some places of long-standing historical importance.

ANALISIS Director Cardenas Goes to Ecuador

PY0912175188 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Journalist Juan Pablo Cardenas Squella, director of the magazine ANALISIS, was released last night after serving a prison term [reclusion nocturna], which included 541 nights in prison, for slandering the president of the Republic. He departed for Quito, Ecuador this morning.

In Quito he will receive a Latin American Award for the Defense of Human Rights from the hands of the Ecuadorean president. [passage omiited]

Party for Democracy Opens National Congress

PY1012165688 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0418 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Santiago, 9 Dec (EFE)—The Chilean Party for Democracy (PPD), today began to analyze the current political situation, and its experts began to draw up a draft government program for the transition period.

PPD President Ricardo Lagos opened today's meeting. Former Italian Prime Minister Bettino Craxi is expected to join the meeting tomorrow.

Lagos emphasized the PPD's role in the opposition victory at the 5 October presidential plebiscite. He said that the objectives are to strengthen PPD activities throughout the nation and to draw up a joint government program together with the rest of the forces who oppose General Augusto Pinochet's military regime.

In October, 54.7 percent of the voters rejected Pinochet, who ran as the single candidate for the 1989-97 presidential term. According to the Constitution in effect, this means that general elections, including presidential and congressional elections, must be held on 14 December 1989 and that President Pinochet will turn over power to his successor on 11 March 1990.

Lagos will close the PPD National Congress on 12 December with a speech. According to congressional sources, the speech focuses on three main issues. The first is the drawing up of a party program for a possible transition government, the second deals with current political issues, and the third is the approval of a set of regulations for internal elections.

During this congress, the PPD will call for internal elections, scheduled to begin in January 1989.

PPD Secretary General Jorge Schaulson has stated that political actions include the campaign to obtain new members that the PPD has launched throughout the country. The objective is to recruit some 100,000 militants.

PPD sources have estimated that membership, which stood at 35,000 when the registration began, has increased to 60,000 by now.

A ceremony will be held in Valparaiso, 140 km northeast of Santiago, on 11 December. PPD national leaders and special guest Bettino Craxi will attend that ceremony.

Army Deputy Commander Warns Communist Party

PY1012183088 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 0126 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Arica, 9 Dec (AFP)—General Jorge Zincke, deputy commander of the Chilean Army, warned the banned Communist Party that the Armed Forces will not allow the party to implement its insurrectionary plans.

Upon arriving in Arica, 1650 km north of Santiago, close to the Peruvian border, Zincke said: If the PCCh wants violence, it will find us.

In a recent declaration issued on the occasion of the opening of its first congress in 19 years, the PCCh reaffirmed that popular rebellion is still a valid approach to building a progressive democracy.

Zincke was appointed Army deputy commander 1 month ago when General Augusto Pinochet's bid for staying in power was defeated in the 5 October plebiscite.

Child's Hand Amputated After Handling Bomb

PY0912181688 Santiago Radio Chilena Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 9 Dec 88

[By Reinaldo Berrios]

[Text] Today a 9-year-old student lost his left hand as a result of the serious injuries he sustained after he picked up a bomb that was hidden among some garbage bags near his school in the city of Copiapo.

(Aldo Crason), the regional Education Ministry secretary, has reported that the minor, who was identified as Mauricio Vera Barrios, a 3d-year student in the Catholic Lyceum of Atacama, was injured this morning at 0815.

According to (Crason), the minor was on his way to school when he stopped at the intersection of O'Higgins and (Diana) Streets, some five blocks from his school. A bomb had been planted there next to some garbage bags.

The minor picked up the bomb and it exploded, sustaining serious injuries to his left hand. This hand was later amputated at the Regional Hospital where he was taken urgently.

Shrapnel also hit the minor in his face, chest, abdomen, and legs, according to the regional Education Ministry secretary.

* Yes Supporters Regroup After Plebiscite

33480035b Santiago QUE PASA in Spanish 3 Nov 88 pp 6-7

[Article by Luisa Garcia: "Are Serious Efforts on the Way?"]

[Text] The outlook is disturbing. In less than a week two groups of former yes supporters were born, one right after the other. And oddly enough, unknown, new or nonexistent movements signed on with one or both of the post-plebiscite-defeat creations. There is an explanation. There is still confusion in the ranks of government supporters. Patience with the much heralded shakeout.

The whole business began quickly. It was former Minister Jose Pinera who just a few days after the plebiscite put forth the idea of an instrumental party to meet the 1989 electoral challenges. Of course, after certain consultations with leaders of National Renewal (RN) and the UDI [Independent Democratic Union] nothing more was heard of it. A premature idea, but one that was also in the minds of other spokesmen who were eager to survive. Then came the pro-unity talks promoted by the leader of the National Party [PN], Fernando Ochagavia. There was, of course, little unity.

Led by the vice president of National Vanguard and former CNI [National Information Center] officer Julio Corbalan, a group of these fellows met over a succession of dinners and came out with an ideological document entitled "Commitment to Chile." It was distinctly nationalist and populist. Besides Vanguard, Venegas' Social Democratic Party, the Party of the South and seven other, still smaller groups signed it. Fantasy? The National Unitary Alliance (AUN) was thus born.

Two days later, on 26 October, the Democratic Confederation (CODE) saw the light of day. And though it may seem odd, representatives of six groups that had enrolled with the other organization once again affixed their signatures. One difference is that CODE includes Phillips' National Party, Radical Democracy and an unknown movement headed by Alvaro Bardon, who confessed straight out that he was representing himself.... Such honesty has not been forthcoming from the other signers of this electoral pact through which they hope to run united in the 1989 elections.

There Is More

As if this were not enough, we know that the group linked to the CES [not further identified] that Eduardo Doberti ran to support the yes vote in the plebiscite, along with Jorge Fontaine, felt that it would be a prudent move to rebuild unity along lines different from the ones that led to defeat in the plebiscite. We know that government representatives are arranging for the emergence of a new movement for themselves. It would be called something like the Free Democratic Center and, they say, would be aimed at a different clientele, the independents who do not wish to work alongside the top political echelons.

In short, the UDI, which attended all of the unity meetings, chose to wriggle out of any bold commitment to such partners. It fled straightway from the AUN and the CODE. The UDI argued that although it applauded the initiatives towards unity, they were premature.... It apologized to CODE, stating, moreover, that it had minor differences of opinion with it. In greater privacy, certain UDI leaders admitted that they would wait until the time was right to come to terms, electorally speaking, with their former colleagues in RN. Hence, for the time being they have decided to bolster their image by beginning the legal registration process.

And RN, which from the outset has been reluctant to "waste time and prestige in conversations with groups of doubtful representativeness," remains on the lookout for whatever signals may come from the Palace. Awaiting the shakeout.

A Candidate Under Wraps?

The government is also contributing its share to the already highly charged political atmosphere among the former yes supporters, specifically on the issue of the leadership of the upcoming election campaign. Certain observers found quite odd the statement that Arturo Venegas made a few days after the luncheon that Pinochet had with the presidents of the groups that supported him in the plebiscite. Venegas asserted that the emerging Alliance would be part of a "coordination that the Interior Ministry would effect to jointly organize the parliamentary campaign, leaving the issue of the presidency for later, as the president, who will lead all of the forces who gave him 43 percent of the vote in the plebiscite, indicated."

All sorts of suspicions were awakened in some of the former yes supporters who would like a different leadership and different principals for the 1989 elections. Their doubts grew during the luncheon that Pinochet offered on Wednesday the 26th at La Moneda [the executive mansion] for 117 leaders who backed the yes vote. The president is said to have asserted straight out there that he already had a candidate "under wraps" but that he would not reveal him yet so that "they don't shoot" at him the way they did at the president.... Obviously there was concealed astonishment among some of those in attendance and joy among others (in any event, the rumor is that the man "under wraps" is Buchi...).

On the same occasion and also in public Pinochet assigned the former undersecretary of the interior, Alberto Cardemil, the job that the current chief of the cabinet, Carlos Caceres, did for the plebiscite; in other words, taking charge of the finances of the new campaign, perhaps thus prolonging the life of the corporation that was set up for that purpose.

Not all of the signals from the palace have pointed in the same direction, of course. After that luncheon Caceres himself asserted that candidacies were now an issue for the political parties. This position has the backing of a majority of former yes voters and reportedly the support of the Armed Forces, which see this approach as a way of consolidating the unanimous prestige that they gained from the honesty of the plebiscite.

Who's Who

Getting back to the issue of the representative movements and for the sole purpose of clearing things up for our surely confused readers, here is a brief profile of the groups that "have made news" in recent days.

Members of Unitary Alliance:

- National Vanguard, the only member party that is established nationwide; it has 35,000 activists (who in the words of their fellow yes supporters disappeared completely when the time came to appoint polling-place representatives for the plebiscite). Vanguard was born in 1983 to support Pinochet's policies and reelection. If the capital is lost, does the company go under? some are asking. Towards the middle of last year the "hard-line" group led by Sergio Miranda Carrington forced a sudden change of course in the board of directors, led by Benjamin Matte, who along with Carlos Cruz Coke left the party. There was talk then of the influence of former Army officer Julio Corbalan, who took over as vice president and who has now emerged as the coordinator of the nationalist alliance.
- Independent Women of Chile. Suffice it to say that its president, Elena Fornes, is also the secretary general of National Vanguard.
- Ladies of Portales. President: Gabriela Rebolledo. A mystery. Regrettably, none of the sources consulted by QUE PASA knew either of the resurgence of this movement or of its representative.
- Chilean Social Democracy (AUN). Although afterwards there were quarrels over the forging of signatures, it managed to gather 3,300 of them in three regions of the country. That was before January of this year, of course. The party then split in two, one faction headed by Eugenio Velasco and the other by Arturo Venegas. The two groups at least agreed to both vote no in the plebiscite. A month before the vote, however, Venegas' faction suddenly decided to call for a yes vote. A few days ago the electoral service dissolved the group for noncompliance with the law.
- Party of the South. A regional group that is registered from the 9th to the 11th regions, has 5,000 activists and managed to establish itself in a second attempt. Its president, Eduardo Diaz, has one "asset," according to certain sarcastic observers: a radio station in Temuco. The group already announced that it would nominate Pablo Rodriguez as its presidential candidate, whether the "partners" in the alliance like it or not. (The same keen observers are betting that this was a strategic move by Diaz to prevent Rodriguez from taking away his chance to run for the Senate from the ninth region...)
- Members of CODE: National Party, registered in 5 regions with 22,000 activists. The doubt has to do with who their leader is today, or whom they are following. Because the PN also had an internal scandal in the middle of the year when a sector headed by German Riesco called for a no vote in the plebiscite. The "trademark" and the headquarters were retained by the board of directors of Patricio Philipps, who decided to call for a yes vote only on 10 September, after a hard-fought national council meeting. The dispute over the coveted name continues today.
- Radical Democracy. Registered in 5 regions with 11,000 members. Worthy heirs to radicalism who

reappeared in 1983. Julio Duran and Jaime Tormo are its "assets." An eloquent comment by one political colleague: "They are all charming, but when they get together, it looks like a reunion of the 1920 graduating class of the National Institute."

- Independent Committee of Professionals. Headed by Alvaro Bardon, who took it upon himself to clarify the nature of his movement: "I represent myself."

Members of the Unitary Alliance and CODE:

- Christians for Yes Movement. Not at all different from the group of former Christian Democrats who signed a declaration supporting a yes vote in the plebiscite. A nice little publicity ploy.
- Independent Movement of the Center. Headed by Luis Angel Santibanez. Apparently a personal initiative that has also aroused curiosity in political circles, which are familiar with the track record of its founder. During the days of the "political opening" Santibanez created the Socialist Workshops and then was part of the Social Democracy Party. He later joined Jarpa's Labor Front and thus become part of the political commission of National Renewal, although he supported the UDI when the internal crisis arose. In August of this year he again ran for the RN political commission but did not receive the needed votes. He decided to leave the party and 2 weeks before the plebiscite reappeared with this movement.
- Great Civic Front of Chile. Led by Carlos Cabello, who, we are reminded, started out as chairman of the Civic Committee of San Miguel for the plebiscite. In mid-campaign he created this Great Civic Front, which operated out of Londres Street. Our sources are unfamiliar with how representative it is.
- National Front of Professionals, Intellectuals and Technicians. It is headed by the dean of the law school at Central University, Fidel Reyes. We did not succeed in gathering information about this front either, except that it was part of the Londres Street unity effort and is linked to Cabello's group.
- Democratic Party of Chile. President: Apolonides Parra. Three months ago it was approved as a political party in formation, a legal formality that requires the submission of 100 signatures in the voter registry. Two "survivors" of the former PADENA [National Democratic Party] decided to revive it in 1983: Apolonides Parra and Luis Minchel. Months later, of course, they split, Parra supporting the government and Minchel the opposition. Their political colleagues were unable to give the names of other leaders.
- Democratic Liberal Party. Also in the process of forming with 100 signatures to its credit. This is one of the several splinter groups from the former Liberal Party, the one that disappeared in 1966 when the National Party was formed. Headed by Carlos Barrientos, a physician, the group decided to split with the liberal-republican alliance and support the yes vote in the plebiscite.

Explanation

We can thus gather that those who have not yet contracted the "fever" of movements representing the former yes supporters see them as short-term political operations that can survive only if the government gives them oxygen. A mystery, for the time being.

In any event and in conclusion, the weakness of these initial post-plebiscite creations is made obvious by a brief analysis of their members. Or as it was summed up to QUE PASA: "These groups have one principle in common: they are all-out enemies of universal suffrage. They would be happy if elections were never held." One can understand why they still exist and why their members are putting forth efforts to come up with prescriptions for unity. Mere survival. The watchword is clear: several signatures can make something out of nothing.

Are serious efforts on the way now?

Colombia

President Addresses Nation on Human Rights

PA1112133088 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0100 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Address to the nation by President Virgilio Barco on the 40th anniversary of the Universal Human Rights Declaration approved by the United Nations; place not given—live or recorded]

[Excerpts] Compatriots: 40 years ago at the UN General Assembly, the world unanimously adopted the Universal Human Rights Declaration. It meant the reconciliation of humanity with man's inalienable rights, which had been brutally violated by Nazism, fascism, militarism, and the terrible nightmare of World War II.

At present, like in the past, the Colombian people and government support these essential principles. They are the very base of civilization and are the guarantee which allows us all to live in peace and enjoy the advantages of progress.

During the 4 decades that followed the adoption of this declaration, the entire world has been systematically struggling to guarantee these rights and to denounce violations of them. New laws have been drafted and approved. Numerous nongovernment institutions have taken on the defense and promotion of human rights. International tribunals with obligatory jurisdiction are speaking out in Europe and Latin America to establish regulations on these matters.

UN commissions and subcommissions are constantly debating issues regarding the preservation of these inviolable rights. Colombia was elected to these commissions by other nations, because its struggle for these principles is recognized and because it contributes to the universal effort to guarantee and enrich them.

My government has placed special emphasis on its human rights policy. Since the presidential campaign, it has been a topic to which I have given priority. As for actions, the current administration created the Presidential Advisory Board on Human Rights and has given municipal officials the means to defend the people's rights.

In addition, we have promoted publications, seminars, and campaigns to create a culture of respect for the rights of all, and especially for the right to life. We have introduced daring judicial innovations to ensure that those who violate the right to life receive exemplary punishment.

The security forces, whose first duty is to protect the right to life that we are entitled to as a nation and as individuals, have been strengthened. A supportive nation views them with appreciation and gratitude.

Judges have received new resources and legal instruments. Special jurisdictions have been created. As you can see, there are new institutional means to face the challenge of barbarism and madness.

Drug traffickers, terrorists, guerrillas, and criminals have been violating human rights. Massacres, ambushes, cowardly attacks, murders, kidnappings, intimidation, and extortion are their preferred weapons to frighten and dominate.

We do not rule out that lower-ranking members of the security forces and intelligence services have taken excessive, unjustifiable actions on their own. We are investigating all charges and have closed several cases.

The government rejects any abuses and supports punishment of anyone committing abuses. It understands the constant sacrifices made by soldiers and policemen and understands their emotions as victims and witnesses of so much savagery and as mourners for the loss of their colleagues' lives. Basing their actions on legal norms and proper codes of conduct makes their mission more noble and meritorious and ensures them the people's support and admiration.

What makes us stronger is the sincere and genuine adherence to the highest principles of respect for life. In this way, our cause becomes more just. We thereby ensure that the security forces, with the cooperation of all, will defeat the enemies of democracy without violating the principles we are defending in this struggle.

This is why today is commemorated throughout the world. It is to remember all those who have suffered the violation of rights that were consecrated 40 years ago as universal, permanent, and inalienable. But above all, we commemorate this day to reaffirm these principles, as we are now doing. [passage omitted contains reading of various passages of articles of the Universal Human Rights Declaration]

Colombia, in its effort to continue being a standard bearer on human rights issues, has asked the United Nations to study the adoption of rules forcing all states to guarantee basic rights for all countries, including the rights to peace, social development, and environmental protection.

This week, the UN plenary session unanimously adopted Colombia's proposal to include the discussion of our proposal in the agenda of a meeting early next year.

We must remain vigilant to ensure that human rights are respected, that the enlightened vision that consecrated them as a universal belief will not disappear, and that they will always serve as a ray of hope for a world that wishes to live in peace with justice and well-being for all. Good night, and see you soon.

Government Refuses Mediators in Rebel Talks

PA1112124288 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0123 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] The government will not accept mediators in a dialogue with the guerrillas, presidential adviser Rafael Pardo Rueda has said. The official added that the government cannot guarantee the safety of the politicians or guerrillas who attend the regional talks which are taking place in various parts of the country.

The presidential adviser also warned that the government would not change its attitude toward the rebels and that any meetings in search of peace will only take place between the government and the guerrilla leaders. Even though the government has not responded to Senator Alvaro Leiva's proposal, which calls for a top-level commission to hold talks with the guerrillas, the FARC and the M-19 guerrillas have already announced that if the government calls for the creation of such a commission, they would immediately order a truce.

[Begin recording] [Pardo] The government cannot assume that responsibility with private individuals. Our peace initiative calls for a direct dialogue with guerrillas who are committed to a reconciliation, once the right conditions are present. This position remains unchanged.

[Reporter] Does this mean Senator Alvaro Leiva's proposal has not been taken into account?

[Pardo] No, the government will respond to Dr Leiva's proposal in the next few days. His proposal has brought about positive results in the sense that the FARC and M-19 have expressed their desire to suspend terrorist acts. The government will announce a formal response to this proposal in the next few days. [end recording]

Meanwhile, former presidents Belisario Bethancourt and Misael Pastrana Borrero urged that a commission be formed for talks with the rebels, which they consider the best chance for peace.

Army Attacks M-19 Camps Where Peace Talks Held

PA0912201788 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1717 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpt] Bogota, 9 Dec (EFE)—According to the M-19 guerrilla group, Colombian Army helicopters rocketed M-19 camps in Cauca Department, in the southeastern part of the country, where a regional peace dialogue was held a few days before and where a cease-fire agreement was reached. No casualties were reported.

The attack, carried out by Blackhawk helicopters purchased this year from the United States, was reported to the press by German Rojas, the M-19's regional commander in Cali, the capital of Cauca, 300 km southeast of Bogota.

The attack took place between 1100 and 1400 on 7 December in the Paletara volcano area, south of Cauca. The attack was ordered by 3d Division Commander Major General Luis Eduardo Roca Maichel, who is stationed in Cali, according to Commander Rojas' communique. There is still no official confirmation by the Defense Ministry.

The M-19 expressed its surprise over the military offensive, which took place "after we had declared a cease-fire in Cauca Department beginning on 7 December."

The guerrilla group added that the area attacked by the helicopters had been used for regional peace dialogues in which guerrillas, politicians from several parties, Catholic Church representatives, and department-level government officials took part. [passage omitted on background material]

Commander: Army Fighting Rebels 'To The End'

PA1012134588 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Report on interview with Army Commander General Nelson Mejia by Raul Gutierrez at the Jaquen Barracks in Bogota on 9 December—recorded]

[Text] Army Commander General Nelson Mejia today denied that there have been any border incidents with the Venezuelan National Guard. He said the military's equipment has improved. Mejia added that the few territories over which the subversives have gained control will be retaken.

[Begin recording] [Mejia] We are not at a truce. Our duty is to protect the country and to fight rebel groups, which is what we have been doing. If the rebels say they are willing to sign a peace agreement, then their actions should show they really want peace. They should also show that the subversive movements will be disbanded. We could then live in peace. Our duty now is to fight the rebels to the end.

[Gutierrez] General, do you mean the Army or the military forces already have the necessary political support?

[Mejia] The entire country is demanding peace and the destruction of such rebel groups. You heard what the president said on Wednesday at the military school, when he ordered that those subversive, terrorist groups be fought with determination.

[Gutierrez] Are you announcing the imminent defeat of the subversives?

[Mejia] I do not know for sure, but I believe we are going to finish this problem very soon.

[Gutierez] General, why are you so sure of this?

[Mejia] Because this is my job. How could I not be sure of this? Do you not see that this is my job and that I know how to do it? I have been preparing to be the Army commander for the past 35 years. I have been hoping for 35 years to be the Army commander, and I am not going to waste this opportunity, especially now that I have the necessary equipment. [end recording]

UC-ELN Letter on Kidnapped Soldiers Release

PA1012033388 (Clandestine) Radio Patria Libre in Spanish 0030 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Letter sent by Camilist Union-Army of National Liberation, UC-ELN, to the mayor and parish priest of Caceres Municipality, Antioquia Department; from Antioquia on 8 December]

[Text] Dear gentlemen: The UC-ELN is turning over to you eight prisoners of war belonging to the Rifle Battalion headquartered in El Bagre, who were in the hands of our organization for several days. You are now responsible for their lives and their physicial and mental condition before civilian and military authorities.

With this action, we show our determination to honor in practice the Geneva accords regarding respectful treatment of prisoners of war. We advocate a humanization of the war, and we will not rest until the Virgilio Barco regime in our country respects the Geneva accords regulating domestic and foreign conflicts that inevitably appear in many parts of the world as a result of the exploitation and destitution experienced by hundreds of peoples today. Colombia is no exception to this situation.

We will always struggle to achieve the right to and respect for life.

We will wage war until death if necessary.

Fraternally,

[Signed] Northwestern War Front, Tomas Guerrilla Front,

Front Directorate

[Issued in] Antioquia, 8 December 1988

Military Men Charged With Negligence in Segovia

PA0912175588 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 1800 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Report by Oscar Galviz]

[Excerpts] According to witnesses' testimony and composite sketches, an ex-captain and two former National Police officers who in the past had been stationed in Segovia, participated in the 11 November massacre. These former military men were recognized by several Segovia residents. The investigation has also established that the perpetrators of the massacre belong to the Death to the Revolutionaries From the Northeast paramilitary group. It also established that Fidel Castano, who is accused of carrying out the Mejor Esquina massacre, also participated in the Segovia massacre.

The Military Attorney General's Office has begun legal procedures against Major Marco Hernando Baez Garzon, who was the Bombona Battalion commander on the day of the massacre, and also against Captain Jorge Eliezer Chacon Lasso, who was the district police commander. The Military Attorney General's Office feels the two officers were negligent in their duties, because no preventive measures were taken although the massacre was expected. Furthermore, neither Army nor police units in the region pursued the criminals after they committed the massacre. [passage omitted]

The judge investigating the Segovia massacre will issue arrest warrants for 11 persons in the next few days.

Former Officials Killed in Puerto Wilches

PA0912161088 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Report by Pablo Vasquez]

[Excerpt] The flag is flying at half-mast today in Puerto Wilches, where two former municipal officials were killed this morning. The first to die was 53-year-old Hernan Camargo Jimenez, a Conservative Party member and former mayor of Puerto Wilches, who was shot in the head when leaving his house.

The second victim, 50-year-old Gilberto Gonzalez, a Liberal Party member and former police inspector, was apparently killed by the same people who had killed Camargo Jimenez 15 minutes earlier. He was shot three times with a 9-mm pistol. No one saw the gunmen when they covered the 500-meter distance between the victims' houses to carry out their mission.

Puerto Wilches is under military control right now, and a tense calm prevails throughout the town. [passage omitted]

Government Unable To Secure Loan From Japan

PA1112125588 Bogota Inravision Television Cadena 1 in Spanish 0130 GMT 11 Dec 88

[From the "Confidential Report" program by Juan Gozain]

[Text] Despite its record as a serious, responsible debtor at the international level, Colombia is unable to secure a $1.8-billion loan. The Japanese banks, which usually lend money to Colombia, have said they will not provide this loan. Colombia was going to announce on 31 December, the last day of the year, that it was ready to renegotiate its foreign debt. The government has decided, however, to postpone the decision until 31 January 1989 in an effort to gain some time.

* 1989 Agrarian Reform Plans Outlined

33480037b Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 2 Nov 88 p 3-A

[Text] Agrarian reform has "invaded" the country. It has even reached the outskirts of Bogota. Regions where there is a lot of dairy production, such as Ubate and Soacha, will begin to be divided up in January of next year.

This decision was made by the Board of Directors of the Colombian Institute of Agrarian Reform (INCORA), in designing the second phase of the implementation of Law 30.

Next week the National Council for Economic and Social Policy (CONPES) is supposed to ratify the decision by the Institute's Board of Directors. In addition, the Finance Ministry will have to begin issuing government bonds for approximately 13 billion pesos for the purchase of the 148,000 hectares that will be adjudicated in 1989.

The second phase of agrarian reform calls for land to be redistributed in 96 municipalities in 17 departments. The areas that will be "Incorized" for the first time are Cundinamarca, 4,800 hectares; Norte de Santander, 11,200; Valle, 2,500; Magdalena, 9,000; and Meta, 6,000.

The Institute applied criteria of ruralness, concentration of ownership, relative development, and pressure for land in defining the actions it will take over the next year.

And the Money?

By issuing government bonds for 13 billion pesos, the government will finance the purchase of 148,000 hectares of land in 1989.

In addition, to pay for improvements and the execution of social development programs among the beneficiaries, some 5 billion pesos will be collected from the 2.8-percent tax on general imports.

Agrarian reform will also be funded by the sectoral programs run by agencies such as the Integrated Rural Development Program (DRI), the Colombian Agricultural-Livestock Institute (ICA), the Agrarian Fund, the Institute for Development of Renewable Natural Resources (INDERENA), Himat, the Agricultural-Livestock Marketing Institute (IDEMA), and the Coffee and Livestock Banks. These funds should be included in the annual budget of each entity. For the first phase, that is, the one under way now, these institutions contributed 32 billion pesos.

According to INCORA Manager Carlos Ossa Escobar, the Institute will receive 24 billion pesos from government bonds for the purchase of land in 1988, 1989, and 1990. Overall investment in agrarian reform during these 3 years will exceed 80 billion pesos.

Land for Settlers

On the other hand, the INCORA Board of Directors set aside 71,938 hectares in Meta for the purpose of special settlement programs for the benefit of peasant families that need land.

Two resolutions were approved to establish special reserves in the jurisdictions of the municipalities of Puerto Lopez and San Martin.

One of these reserves, the one in Puerto Lopez, is called Serrania de Menegua, and it covers an area of 71,938 hectares. The one in San Martin covers 6,938 hectares, and has been named Guacamayas.

These two areas, declared uncultivated, will be incorporated into the agrarian reform programs for the purpose of putting them into agricultural production and distributing them under the special settlement system.

Nothing But Objections

The presidents of the two associations that represent the entire agriculture-livestock sector, the Association of Colombian Farmers (SAC) and the Association of Colombian Cattlemen (FEDEGAN), raised objections to the second phase of agrarian reform.

Actually, no one is happy with the arrangement, not even the peasants. For example, Jesus Alirio Guevara, president of the National Trade Union of Workers of Uraba (SINTAGRO), disagreed with the design of the reform plan for next year because areas that are sensitive in terms of public order in Uraba were not taken into consideration.

The harshest criticism of the budgetary and operational availability of the INCORA came from the president of the SAC, Eliseo Restrepo Londono.

The farm leader, who is on the Institute's Board of Directors, asserted that during the discussions of which areas would be subject to agrarian reform next year, he did not agree that the law should be enforced right away with respect to land that is under cultivation.

"The SAC believes it is inappropriate," he stated, "to take land that is being properly used." In his view, such land should be left until the final phases of the application of the law.

Restrepo Londono said that it is very difficult for the government to undertake an outlay of 60 million pesos for agrarian reform next year. "We don't want the reform effort to end in another failure because of the attempt to adjudicate 148,000 hectares of land," he indicated.

Regarding the allocation of resources, the SAC president revealed that the only thing there is is government promises, but nothing has been defined in this connection.

The president of FEDEGAN, Jose Raimundo Sojo Zambrano, who is also a member of the INCORA Board of Directors, discussed both the good points and the bad.

He stated that the delineation of the new agrarian reform zones is a positive development, "because in this way the land will not be adjudicated haphazardly, but rather systematically."

"But I do believe," added Sojo Zambrano, "that many criteria are still needed to ensure the proper delineation of these zones. For example, we need to identify each area's attitude to make sure that production in small holdings will be profitable."

In Sojo Zambrano's opinion, it is not enough to settle a family on a plot of land; the cultivation of that land must constitute a real solution to the beneficiaries' economic problems.

"I believe," he said, "that the INCORA has not been able to fine tune the criteria necessary to identify the municipalities or zones where agrarian reform should be implemented. But I am confident that these instruments of identification will be honed throughout the process, and that the objective of Law 30 can be carried out fully."

On the other hand, the president of SINTAGRO, Jesus Alirio Guevara, stated that the INCORA has been asked to give deeds to land in that region.

"The measure is good for San Pedro de Uraba," declared the union leader, "but the entire region should be taken into consideration, especially the area of Apartado. At least 5,000 families are pressuring for land there."

He pointed out that it is social and political measures such as this that will solve the problems of Uraba, not military measures. He argued that although some families have received deeds from the INCORA, many have had to resort to taking over or recovering land to become landowners.

Tact Required

The INCORA's objectives for the next year have already taken shape. Indeed, the reactions were felt strongly last week.

For example, the cattlemen of Sucre (where the pressure for land is perhaps more deeply rooted than in any other department) stated through the regional Federation of Cattlemen that Law 30 should be applied with tact, not intimidation, by INCORA, "which wields expropriation as an argument."

In the same department, however, the peasants continue to harbor the hope that Law 30 will finally be implemented. The invasions, for example, have been almost completely discontinued.

[Box, p 3A]

These will be the Agrarian Reform zones for 1989, by department:

- Antioquia: San Pedro de Uraba and Arboletes.
- Gran Caldas: Neira, Samana, Victoria, La Dorada, and Cordoba.
- Atlantico: Sabanalarga, Usiacuri, Luruaco, Polonuevo, Santo Tomas, and Palmar de Varela.
- Bolivar: Maria La Baja, Mahates, Arjona, Magangue, Cordoba, Talaiganuevo, Mompos, and Calamar.
- Cauca: Corinto.
- Cesar: Pailitas.
- Cordoba: San Pelayo, Cienaga de Oro, San Bernardo del Viento, Buenavista, Pueblonuevo, Planeta Rica, and Montelibano.
- Cundinamarca: Fuquene, Guacheta, Simijaca, Susa, San Miguel, Sibate, Silvania, Soacha, Viota, San Bernardo, La Palma, Caparrapi, and Yacopi.
- Huila: Rivera.
- Magdalena: Santa Marta, Aracataca, Fundacion, Cienaga, Tenerife, Plato, Chivolo, Ariguani, Sitionuevo, Remolino, and El Banco.
- Meta: San Martin and Puerto Lopez.
- Narino: Leiva, El Rosario, Tangua, and Funes.
- Norte de Santander: Cucutilla, Arboledas, Toledo, Labateca, Chitaga, El Zulia, Sardinata, Cucuta, and Tibu.
- Santander: Curiti, Palmar, Hato, Mogotes, Confines, Galan, Valle de San Jose, Chima, Pinchote, Paramo, Ocamonte, and Oiba.
- Sucre: Sampues, Morroa, and Buenavista.
- Tolima: Purificacion, Suarez, Saldana, Guamo, and Coello.
- Valle: Cartago, Obando, Ulloa, Florida, Tulua, and Bugalagrande.

[Box, p 3A] Ubate Cattlemen Shocked

The announcement of the INCORA's final action in the area of Ubate shocked cattlemen in the region, which is one of the most fertile and productive dairy regions in the country.

The Institute has been taking action since June of last year, but now Agrarian Reform will really sink in here. In this regard, a member of the cattlemen's committee of Ubate, Luis Enrique Hernandez, indicated that there may be a sudden exodus of landowners from the area. They will probably sell their land for whatever they can get, because the way the INCORA pays does not appeal to them.

"I think," added Hernandez, "that the INCORA was operating with false criteria, that is, on the assumption that the region has a social problem. But that problem was actually created artificially. There was harmony there; the workers had no problem. They even migrated there from other parts of the country."

The cattlemen's leader stated that milk production has already been affected, because many dairymen do not have a clear view of what is going on. "Several landowners have begun to sell their newborn heifers, which indicates that the rotation of the herd has already been set back a year." Now, with the reconfirmation of the INCORA's action, Hernandez hinted that milk production will suffer a total collapse.

* Engineering Projects Affected by Extortion

33480036 Medellin EL COLOMBIANO in Spanish 25 Oct 88 pp 1-A, 7-A

[Interview with Hugo Saldarriaga Botero, chairman of the local chapter of the Colombian Association of Construction Engineers, by Gustavo Leon Ramirez; "ACIC: Construction Engineers Fall Victim to 'Vacunas'"; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] The construction engineers who work on public works projects, like cattlemen and banana growers, have been the victims of extortion and blackmail in parts of Antioquia that are known to be very violent.

The chairman of the local chapter of the Colombian Association of Construction Engineers (ACIC), Hugo Saldarriaga Botero, declared that this is one of the most serious problems affecting the professional association.

Saldarriaga Botero indicated that last week the association officially proposed to Antonio Roldan Betancur and to Mayor Juan Gomez Martinez that firms no longer be required to post signs indicating the cost of the project and identifying the contracting firm. This would be a way to prevent the extortion of the association's members, he noted.

In an interview with EL COLOMBIANO, the professional leader complained that the influence of guerrilla groups and common criminals has been felt deeply in Magdalena Medio, Uraba, and the areas where major hydroelectric projects are under way.

In order to work in these regions, contracting businesses, whether small or large, have had to pay the so-called "vacunas" [protection money], which has forced them to take this kind of risk into account when evaluating the cost of a project. [passage omitted]

One of these firms, whose name was not revealed by sources close to the ACIC, was pressured to pay a "vacuna" each month to complete a section of the La Paz Main Highway. But when work was finished, the company was prevented from removing its machinery from the site.

"The association is battling with uncertainty," declared Saldarriaga Botero. "The problem is growing increasingly disturbing. The engineer has to work in that environment. He studied to be an engineer so that he could help the community and develop the country. But life is becoming more and more difficult and risky, and everyone has his own fear." [passage omitted]

Extortion Must Be Included in Costs

"Contracting engineers are subject to extortion and threats in the Department," stated the ACIC chairman in an interview with EL COLOMBIANO moments before expressing his concern to the high-ranking officers of the 4th Brigade, in the presence of 50 of his colleagues.

"Unfortunately, we must come out and say it: This association is not immune to bands of kidnapers and extortionists. This problem is most acute in Magdalena Medio. The construction of the La Paz Highway has been a huge headache. The companies, which are plagued with threats as soon as they begin work, often keep quiet. We don't find out what is going on in each individual firm. The engineer is, by temperament I think, a quiet person who often keeps things to himself. He faces the danger alone, without any protection whatsoever. (The extortionists) tell him from the beginning, and he knows what is at stake."

[EL COLOMBIANO] Are projects delayed because of security problems in these areas?

[Saldarriaga Botero] No. Naturally, the contractor already knows when he estimates the total cost of one of those projects that he will have to include risks like that in his calculations.

[EL COLOMBIANO] But does he have to include the costs of possible extortion?

[Saldarriaga Botero] Those risks must be included, because often it is not, shall we say, the economic contribution in money that must be made at a given moment, but he has to contribute his equipment for transportation that is not included in the contract, and he has to do it. He has no choice. They force him. There are some areas in the department, and in the country as a whole, where it is more difficult to work than in other places. Obviously, there is a greater risk, higher costs. These risks, then, have to be covered somehow. And that makes the projects more expensive.

[EL COLOMBIANO] How long has the association been aware of these threats?

[Saldarriaga Botero] Two years ago we started receiving strong threats.

[EL COLOMBIANO] What has been done at the official level?

[Saldarriaga Botero] Nothing. It is very difficult. The authorities in charge of this matter are working incessantly. The brigades in Magdalena Medio, in Uraba, work very hard. But these are national problems.

Signs Posted

[EL COLOMBIANO] What have you proposed to the governor in this regard?

[Saldarriaga Botero] We sent a letter to both Governor Antonio Roldan and Mayor Juan Gomez Martinez requesting that the offices under them not require signs along the road or highway indicating the cost of the project or the name of the contracting firm. We know that this won't eliminate the problem, but these things should not be publicized so openly.

[EL COLOMBIANO] What do you fear about the signs?

[Saldarriaga Botero] The sign states, among other information, the value of the contract and the name of the firm carrying out the project. The criminal thinks that all that money goes to the contractor. He forgets that the investment remains there, in the highway itself. The contractor often loses money on projects.

[EL COLOMBIANO] Does this problem occur in urban areas too?

[Saldarriaga Botero] We don't know of any firms carrying out projects in the city that have been subject to such threats. Of course, the threats are directed to the manager or owner of the firm, here in Medellin.

[EL COLOMBIANO] Has that influence, that harassment, been felt?

[Saldarriaga Botero] Unfortunately, we have to say that there are specific cases in which member firms have been threatened.

[EL COLOMBIANO] Do these threats come primarily from common criminals or guerrillas?

[Saldarriaga Botero] It appears that it is criminals who are doing it. It is not certain that guerrillas are participating.

[EL COLOMBIANO] What action have insurance companies taken to deal with the risks?

[Saldarriaga Botero] The insurance companies are like banks, in my view, and bankers have no heart. The only thing they care about is the payment of their increasingly high premiums. Public works projects are becoming more and more expensive because of these premiums. We have asked the General Comptrollership of the Republic to take legislative action to control these extremely costly premiums, which end up in the pockets of insurance companies.

[EL COLOMBIANO] Isn't any distinction made in the premiums whether the project is being built in Medellin or in Magdalena Medio?

[Saldarriaga Botero] There is no difference in the rates.

Ecuador

Government Announces New Anti-Inflation Plan

PA0912153788 Hamburg DPA in Spanish 1748 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Quito, 8 Dec (DPA)—Burdened by an unprecedented annual inflation rate of more than 80 percent, the Ecuadoran Government today announced the imminent adoption of a new anti-inflation plan based on incentives for food production.

According to Vice President Luis Parodi, the plan will be submitted to President Rodrigo Borja in the first few days of 1989 on the basis of "real economic statistics." The government finished analyzing these figures last week.

The new administration has accused the administration of conservative President Leon Febres Cordero of falsifying economic statistics "to try to minimize the magnitude of the disastrous situation." Practically all economic indicators dropped to unprecedented levels during the final part of the Febres Cordero administration.

When the current Social Democratic administration took office on 10 August, annual inflation was 65 percent, but in the following 3 months it climbed to more than 80 percent, continuing an upward trend that began at the end of 1987.

"The first priority will be the reactivation of food production, because the food and beverage sector has the greatest effect on the inflation rate," Parodi announced, adding that the government's goal is to lower inflation to 30 percent annually. When President Febres Cordero took office in 1984, the annual inflation rate was 25 percent.

Venezuela Provides $25 Million To Pay IDB

PA1112164088 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1230 GMT 11 Dec 88

[Text] Ecuador has paid $25 million to the IDB and is now up to date on its loan from that institution. The money was provided by the Venezuelan Government as a short-term loan.

Ecuador's failure to pay its debt to the IDB on time resulted in the IDB suspending loans approved for several projects, including drinking water, communications, and electrification systems.

Paraguay

Police Prevent Political Video, Panel Discussion

PY0712010188 Asuncion Radio Caritas in Spanish 0010 GMT 7 Dec 88

[Text] Police tonight prevented the showing of a video, which was to have been followed by a panel discussion, at the Juan de Salazar Cultural Center. The police arrested some people.

At the center, which is run by the Spanish Embassy, a video was to have been shown that depicts the most important political events of the past 2 years. It was to have been followed by a panel discussion on the process of change in Paraguay.

Using the well-known phrase, on orders from higher authority, police who were posted at the door of the Juan de Salazar Cultural Center did not allow anyone to enter, and they even detained some persons, including Ligia Prieto de Centurion, who was taken away by plainclothes policemen.

Police Arrest Radio Caritas Reporter in Caacupe
PY0812182588 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 8 Dec 88 p 16

[Summary] According to Radio Caritas reports, Oscar Acosta, secretary general of the Paraguayan Journalists Union and a Radio Caritas reporter, was arrested yesterday in Caacupe a little after 1100. The radio station added that police used violence when arresting Acosta, and that Radio Caritas has already undertaken the proper legal proceedings to establish Acosta's legal status.

Arrest of Social, Political Leaders Reported
PY0812162388 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish 8 Dec 88 p 16

[Excerpt] The Popular Democratic Movement (MDP) has issued a communique to inform the national and international public of the "arbitrary arrest" of the following political and social leaders: Elsa Mereles (Hospital de Clinicas Nurse Association leader); Ligia Prieto de Centurion (Paraguayan Women Association secretary); Ligia and Armando Centurion; Domingo Laino (Authentic Radical Liberal Party, PLRA, president); Juan M. Florentin and Luis Guanes, from the PLRA; Pedro Portillo (lawyer of the Churches Committee); Marina Arrom (MDP member); Waldino Ramon Lovera, Eduardo San Martin and Alejandro Stumpfs, (MOPOCO [Colorado Popular Movement] members); Fernando Vera and Marcial Gonzalez Safstrand, (PRF [Febrerista Revolutionary Party] members).

According to the MDP communique, "The escalation of repressive measures seeks to thwart the March for Life sponsored by the National Convergence for Human Rights, which includes 36 political and social organizations. The March for Life will be held to commemorate the 40th anniversary of the Human Rights Declaration and to demand full respect for human rights in Paraguay. This incident confirms the need to hold this march to demand the enforcement of individual freedoms and the freedom of those comrades who have been arrested." [passage omitted]

More Arrests
PY1012142688 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 10 Dec 88 p 8

[Text] When this issue went to print, 35 political and social leaders and journalists had been placed in custody without appropriate court warrants. According to several high-ranking government officials, the objective of these arrests is to prevent the March for Life. Police have not provided any explanation. The male leaders are being taken to the Special Security Prison, while the women are held at the 12th Police Precinct Station.

The following persons are being held in custody: Oscar Acosta, of the Paraguayan Journalists Union; Edilberto Vargas and Celso Velazquez of Radio Caritas; Marina Arrom of the Popular Democratic Movement [MDP]; Domingo Laino, Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, Felipe Duarte, and Luis Guanes of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party [PLRA]; Digno Britez, Heriberto Alegre, Pedro Portillo, Alejandro Ladalario, and Cristina Villa of the Committee of Churches; Armando Centurion of the Friedrich Nauman Foundation; and Ligia Prieto de Centurion of the Paraguayan Women Association.

Also under arrest are Maria Ligia Centurion and Gabriel Espinola of the Organization of Education Workers; Maria Victoria Brusquetti de Ferreira of the Board of Archidiocese Laymen; Gustavo Galeano of the Communications Club; Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, Waldino Ramon Lovera, Eduardo San Martin and Alejandro Stumpfs, of the MOPOCO; Carmen de Lara Castro of the Paraguayan Human Rights Commission; Jose Martinez, Regina de Rodas, Elvio Romero, and one more unidentified person of the Paraguayan Peasant Movement; Marcial Gonzalez Safstrand and Fernando Vera of the Revolutionary Febrerista Party; Elsa Mereles of the Hospital de Clinicas Nurse and Employees Association; Ronald Orrego of the FETRABAN [Bank Workers Federation]; Ceferino Ramirez of the Colorado Party Ethical Movement; and Rene Recalde of the National Laymen Team.

Arrests To 'Behead' March
PY1012142988 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 10 Dec 88 p 8

[Text] Yesterday, Jose Eugenio Jacquet, minister of justice and labor and third vice president of the Colorado Party Executive Board stated that the arrest of more than 30 political, social, and religious leaders is aimed at "beheading" the so-called March for Life scheduled to begin at 1100 local time on 10 December in front of the Metropolitan Cathedral.

The high-ranking government official emphasized that the leaders and the journalists have been arrested for "disrupting public order, organizing a pointless act of provocation, and for taking a mistaken course of action." However, Minister Jacquet did not specify the nature of the "mistakes" that the organizers of the march had made.

Asked about the arrested journalists Oscar Acosta and Edilberto Vargas, who have no connection at all with the organizers of the march, Jacquet said: "They are leaders too, they are also involved. I do not know whether you are aware that these two or three fellow journalists of yours are also leaders in Radio Caritas. Therefore, they have all been picked up to prevent the body of the movement from functioning by beheading it."

When asked about the release of all the prisoners, the official answered: "I believe they will all be released tomorrow (10 December) or the day after... they probably will be released tomorrow. Just bear in mind that the body cannot function without the head."

More on Human Rights March

PY1112231888 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
11 Dec 88 p 8

[Excerpts] A march sponsored by the National Movement for Human Rights [Convergencia Nacional por los Derechos Humanos] to mark the 40th anniversary of the Universal Human Rights Declaration was staged throughout Asuncion with lightning demonstrations. The demonstrations were dispersed by police, who attacked groups of people. [passage omitted]

After repeated beatings and arrests at Plaza de Los Heroes and Plaza Independencia squares in downtown Asuncion, tempers began to calm down around noon. The city, however, remained under strict police control yesterday afternoon.

Clashes between civilians and policemen took place during demonstrations in front of the ABC Color newspaper, the Touring Club, and the Hotel Guarani. People were badly beaten in these locations, including some policemen, who, strangely enough, were also punched and kicked. [passage omitted]

It is worth noting that some people, who were arrested yesterday morning, were released yesterday afternoon.

Demonstration Repressed

PY1012181088 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish
10 Dec 88 p 8

[Text] The mass scheduled for 1100 today was held at the Metropolitan Cathedral in Asuncion. Msgr Agustin Blujaki, cathedral parish priest confirmed by phone that the mass was taking place "on time." He added, however, that "the Cathedral is empty, there is no one here."

Police had cordoned off several blocks around the church. They stopped people, asked for personal identity documents, and diverted cars trying to get to the cathedral.

Police officers standing on street corners near the church had a lengthy list of names. If anyone trying to get through the cordon was on that list, he was immediately arrested and taken to an undisclosed location.

The Supreme Court had set the hearing date for some of those currently in custody for 0830 on 12 December. It is assumed, however, that by that time all of them will be released because government officials like Justice and Labor Minister Jose Eugenio Jacquet has stated that the objective in holding them was to "behead" the "March for Life."

This morning groups of people gathered near corners, as police cordons prevented them from actually entering the cathedral. Although they were unable to attend the mass and much less participate in any march, people watched what was going on from afar.

On Independencia Nacional Street, near its intersection with Presidente Franco, police forces attacked a group of demonstrators, many of them peasants. The policemen violently attacked Luis Adolfo Resck [a leader of the Christian Democratic Party] and arrested him and the peasants. Eyewitnesses reported that considerable violence was used in the action.

Policemen threatened an ULTIMA HORA photographer that they would beat him up if he continued taking pictures. The demonstration staged on Independencia Nacional Street was later disbanded.

List of Detainees Released

PY1212012588 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
11 Dec 88 p 8

[Text] A total of 64 people were detained after yesterday's incidents. These people have been indentified by the Committee of Churches. Several other people were also detained, and the actual total of people in custody is estimated at approximately 100. Yesterday afternoon the police released two lists of the detainees.

Following is the list of detained people: Martha Nunez de Benitez Florentin, of the PLRA [Authentic Liberal Radical Party]; Augusto Brun, Rosa Maria Chico Rivera, Antonio Chico, and Arnaldo Corrales, of the PLRA; Rosalino Duarte, of the National Workers Coordinating Board; Catalino Fleitas, PLRA; Victor Fleitas, PRF [Revolutionary Febrerista Party]; Edward Hearns, of the Holy Spirit Congregation; Rafaela Guanes de Laino, PLRA; Ricardo Lugo, PRF; Ariel Nunez and son, whose name is not known, PLRA; Sidia Dimartino de Nunez; Benigno Perrota, PRF; Luis Alfonso Resck, PDC [Christian Democratic Party]; Humberto Ayala Zelada, MIT [Workers Interunion Movement]; Ilde Silvero, SENDERO journalist; Eduardo Arce, reporter of another morning newspaper; and Eduardo Torrasca and Andres Candado, PLRA. Marcial Congo, of the Franciscan Friars Minor Order, and a young girl named Irala Amarilla (the daughter of a Colorado Party congressman), were also arrested, but they were later released.

The arrests began on 6 December and continued until 10 December. Following is another list of names: Oscar Acosta, a Radio Caritas reporter and head of the SPP [Paraguayan Journalists Union]; Luis Manuel Andrada, PDC; Juan Pedro Araujo and Marina Arron, MDP [Popular Democratic Movement]; Mayorina Balbuena, of the Paraguayan Campesino Movement (MPC); Juan Manuel Benitez Florentin, PLRA; Digno Efigenio Britez, a lawyer of the Committee of Churches; Armando Centurion Prieto and Ligia Prieto de Centurion, UMPA [Paraguayan Womens Union]; Maria Ligia Centurion and Felipe Duarte, PLRA; Gabriel Espinola, OTEP [Organization of Paraguayan Education Workers]; Luis Espinola, PLRA; Maria Victoria Brusquetti de Ferreira and Gustavo Galeano, of the Social Communications

Club of Radio Caritas; Miguel Angel Gonzalez Casabianca, MOPOCO; Marcial Gonzalez Sasftrand, PRF; and Luis Guanes Gondra, PLRA.

The following persons have also been detained: Alejandro Ladalardo, a lawyer of the Committees of Churches; Domingo Laino, PLRA president; Carmen Lara de Castro, head of the Paraguayan Human Rights Commission; Waldino Ramon Lovera, MOPOCO; Jose Martinez, MCP; Elsa Mereles, a member of the Hospital de Clinicas union; Ronald Orrego, FETRABAN [Federation of Bank Workers]; Oscar Portillo, PLRA, who has been interned in the Police Hospital; Pedro Dario Portillo, a lawyer of the Committee of Churches; Ceferino Ramirez, a member of the Ethical and Doctrinaire Movement of the Colorado Party; and Rene Recalde, National Laymens Team.

The list continues: Regina de Rodas, widow, president of the Commission for the Missing and Murdered; Elvio Romero, MCP; Eduardo San Martin, MOPOCO; Alejandro Stumps, MOPOCO; Alba Valenzuela, PLRA; Edilberto Vargas, of Radio Caritas; Celso Velazquez, a Radio Caritas reporter; Fernando Vera, PRF; and Cristina Vila, of the Committees of Churches.

Ten people were detained in San Juan, but their identities are unknown.

Journalists 'Unjustly Attacked'

PY1212013088 Asuncion EL DIARIO in Spanish
11 Dec 88 p 8

[Text] Several members of the press who were covering yesterday's street incidents were unjustly attacked by police. One of this newspaper's mobile units was attacked by a uniformed policeman, who broke the car's windshield with his nightstick.

Journalist Celso Chavez was beaten about the head and chest with nightsticks. Ricardo Caballero Aquino was hit on the legs, and photographer Mario Dias was beaten. All of these men work for EL DIARIO NOTICIAS. Ilde Silvero, editor of the weekly SENDERO, who was photographing the incidents, was also beaten by police before being detained. Cesar Velasquez, a photographer of the daily HOY, was also beaten by police.

There can be no justification whatsoever for this aggression against members of the press doing their jobs. They were not participants in the street incidents they were covering.

Central Bank Proposes New Exchange Rate

PY1012192288 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
10 Dec 88 p 11

[Text] Since the country is experiencing a difficult financial situation, the Banco Central del Paraguay (BCP) has submitted a proposal to the Economic Coordination Council to raise the export exchange rate from 550 to 750 guaranies per dollar, to increase the exchange rate for servicing the public foreign debt and paying for government imports and expenses from 400 to 600 guaranies per dollar, and to pay for oil and oil by-products' imports at an exchange rate of 750 guaranies per dollar. These measures, once approved, will go into effect on 1 January 1989.

The BCP proposal is to set the export exchange rate at 750 guaranies to the dollar and to modify the percentage of dollars paid to exporters at the official rate [aforo] so that the BCP can retain a greater portion of export-generated dollars, but still maintain the competitive edge of the country's exports. The proposal also calls for setting at 600 guaranies to the dollar the exchange rate to service the public foreign debt and pay for government imports and expenses. The entire proposal should go into effect on 1 January 1989.

The BCP also proposes to set at 750 guaranies to the dollar the exchange rate for imports of oil and oil by-products on 1 January and to establish a special foreign exchange parity for the export of nontraditional products so as to increase the suply of dollars in the free market.

According to the technical document prepared by the BCP experts, this proposal constitutes a first step, which should soon be complemented with overall adjustment measures in the fiscal, monetary, and foreign exchange areas. In addition, measures should be adopted to strengthen the country's productive establishment, to reinforce budgetary resources, and to streamline the budgets and costs of state-owned companies.

Thus, the impact of the exchange rate corrections on the cost of public services and on the prices of fuels can be attenuated by austerity measures to be adopted by the state enterprises affected by those corrections.

The new foreign exchange parities will force readjustments in public utility rates and imported oil prices. These readjustments, however, will not have such a harsh social impact when compared with the predictable inflation of a monetary origin—which would considerably affect the free market exchange rate and the cost of living—if the exchange rate to meet the needs of the public sector is not concomittantly increased to 600 guaranies to the dollar, according to the analysis made by central bank experts.

The BCP document contends that, since all imports of consumer goods, industrial inputs, and capital goods by the private sector are paid for at the free market exchange rate, they will be badly affected by the high inflation of monetary origin if the exchange rate to meet the public sector needs and to import oil is maintained at the present exchange rate of 400 guaranies to the dollar.

Regarding the exchange rate of 750 guaranies to the dollar proposed for export operations, the BCP document asserts that it only represents the average exchange rate at which the banks negotiate export operations, considering the current percentages of the export-generated dollars paid to exporters at the official rate and those released to them for negotiation in the free market. No export operation is currently carried out at 500 guaranies to the dollar, and 100 percent of the dollars generated by the operation are retained by the Central Bank. Therefore, the proposed 750 guaranies exchange rate would not necessarily be an incentive to export, but a method to simplify the various exchange rates that now apply to different products, so the BCP can retain a larger portion of export-generated dollars to provide for payment of the public sector's foreign obligations.

With that measure, it will also be possible annually to boost the BCP foreign reserves by approximately $100 million, thus supplementing the reduced resources now available for the payment of the public sector's foreign obligations and for oil imports.

The foreign exchange rates subsidized by the BCP with printed money and large credits to the public sector took up 86,357,000,000 guaranies in 1987, and 48,338,000,000 in the first half of 1988. With the new 750 guaranies to the dollar rate of exchange, compared with the current 400 guaranies to the dollar rate of exchange for public sector expenses and oil imports, the BCP will have to provide 210 billion guaranies in subsidies on a budgeted sum of $600 million.

With the readjustment of the exchange rate at 600 guaranies to the dollar for the public sector, and at 750 guaranies to the dollar for oil and oil by-products imports, the subsidy to be provided by the BCP will be reduced by 75 billion guaranies. Therefore, this readjustment is needed to reduce the printing of money required to subsidize differentials between the prices at which the BCP purchases and sells dollars. It can be noted that even with the new exchange rates of 600 guaranies to the dollar for the public sector and 750 guaranies to the dollar for oil and oil byproducts imports, the exchange subsidies are still very high. So, these adjustments are only partial corrections, which must be complemented with appropriate fiscal and budgetary measures in the whole public sector.

Inflationary Money Printing

PY1012204288 Asuncion HOY in Spanish
10 Dec 88 p 10

[Text] The Central Bank of Paraguay (BCP) has admitted that "the large amount of printed money (of an inflationary nature) has largely exceeded the needs of the economy in recent years, pushing inflation upward." It revealed that the amount of printed money reached 384 billion guaranies this past September, taking jumps of 39 percent in 1986, 45 percent in 1987, and 30 percent in 1988.

In absolute figures, the amounts were 62,332,000,000 guaranies in 1986, 99,185,000,000 in 1987, and 62,832,000,000 from January through September 1988.

The large amount of printed money caused an unprecedented increase in money supply and bank deposits, which together added up to 271 billion guaranies in 1975 and 576 billion guaranies in August 1988.

The BCP document reports that an inflation rate of 32 percent was registered in 1987, the highest annual rate in more than 30 years; and the annual inflation rate in September 1988 stood at 26 percent.

Cause for Printing Money

The Central Bank experts explain that the printing of money has gained momentum in recent years mainly due to the difference between the price at which the BCP buys dollars and the price at which it sells them, and to the rapid increase in credits granted to the public sector.

The purchase-sale differential in the dollar parity was responsible for a jump in the amount of printed money from 47,444,000,000 guaranies in 1986 to 86,357,000,000 in 1987. In the first half of 1988, that differential amounted to 48,338,000,000 guaranies.

On the other hand, credits to the public sector climbed from 60 billion guaranies in 1986 to 110 billion in 1987. On 31 August 1988, the credit balance stood at 146,448,000,000 guaranies.

The main public enterprises or government agencies that have drawn large credits from the BCP are: the INC [National Cement Company], 49,677,000,000 guaranies; ACEPAR [Paraguayan Steelmaking Company], 36,824,000,000 guaranies; the Finance Ministry, 36,198,000,000 guaranies; APAL [Paraguayan Alcohol Administration], 10,530,000,000 guaranies; LAP [Paraguayan Airlines], 4,936,000,000 guaranies; FLOMERES [State Merchant Fleet], 2,274,000,000 guaranies; ANTELCO [National Telecommunications Administration], 2,200,000,000 guaranies; CORPOSANA [Water and Sanitation Corporation], 1,800,000,000 guaranies; municipalities, 1,117,000,000 guaranies; IPVU [Paraguayan Housing and Urbanization Institute], 642 million guaranies; and other entities, 290 million guaranies.

Public Enterprises Foreign Debt

In addition to the internal public debt in guaranies, ACEPAR carries a $331,954,380 foreign debt, of which $135,559,216 is overdue; and INC owes $232,422,000, of which $43,736,000 is in arrears.

The BCP document notes that the payments it will make abroad on behalf of the INC will increase its debt to the Central Bank at the rate of 20 billion guaranies per year between 1989 and 1994. Thus the credits extended to the INC will amount to more than 170 billion guaranies unless amortizations are paid.

The BCP also warns that the amount of the INC debt should proportionally increase following the suggested adjustment in the dollar exchange rate to service the public sector's obligations. So that the BCP can keep monetary control, the exchange rate differential for the public sector must be narrowed and a ceiling for credits to the public sector must be established.

BCP Economic Warning

PY1012164388 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 10 Dec 88 p 10

[Text] The Central Bank has presented to the government three options for monetary, fiscal, and exchange rate adjustments. Thus, without intending to do so, the Central Bank has sounded what amounts to an SOS regarding the nation's finances. The Bank's document, made public yesterday, also reveals that, in view of the fact that it could not meet international financial commitments, on 30 September, the Central bank was forced to declare a unilateral moratorium on $240,195,000. International reserves, which 8 years ago stood at $700 million, have dropped to $169 million. The bank, however, has annual foreign-exchange obligations totaling $600 million. Therefore, according to the document, if nothing is done the country's international monetary reserves will collapse. In turn, temporary measures will only help improve the situation of public finances for a short while, and will not benefit the nation's economy as a whole. Notwithstanding the short-term inflation they will cause for the adjustment period, in the long run overall adjustment measures will tend to invigorate the country's productive base. The dramatic but realistic picture painted by the Central Bank confirms the concern business sectors and independent economists have had for the last 3 years. These sectors have been clamoring for structural adjustments in the economy. Everything indicates that heroic measures can be expected at this time. Social costs will be substantial, mainly due to the inflation that will be generated by this delayed "economic realism."

According to the document, made public yesterday, the bank's foreign reserves have steadily declined in recent years due to increases in foreign debt payments, imports of state-owned companies, government expenses, and oil imports. At the same time, there has been a decline in export earnings, foreign credits to binational enterprises, and foreign investments. International reserves have decreased by $148,412,000 over the January-September period, and now stand at $169 million.

The accumulated overdue foreign debt now amounts to $240,195,000, as part of the Central Bank's annual budget of $600 million in foreign obligations. Current foreign currency income is not enough to cover these needs.

In view of the situation, the Central Bank proposes three options and analyzes the pros and cons of each one.

Option A: Not modify the exchange rates now in effect. In this case, the foreign reserves will run out in the first half of 1989. The public sector will then have to import oil through the dollar free market, thereby substantially increasing inflation, salaries, internal costs, public utility rates, budgetary expenditures, and unemployment.

Option B: Adopt temporary foreign-exchange measures. This will bring on corresponding increases in prices, salaries, public utility rates, and the national budget. The subsequent increased inflation will in this case be more moderate than that caused by Option A.

However, the bank contends, this option will only temporarily provide foreign exchange to meet the public sector obligations. This option also takes into account the reduction of subsidies for the state to meet its obligations in foreign currency and the limitation of credits to the public sector to be essential to control the printing of money.

Option C: Introduce overall measures for monetary, exchange-rate, public utility rates, fiscal, and salary adjustments, including a plan for invigorating the productive base.

The Central Bank notes that this option will call for a whole set of measures to be coordinated by the main public sector institutions, and the creation of a structure for adminstering and monitoring the adjustment process.

With Option C, the highest inflation rates ever will be felt during the initial stage, which will later stabilize as the monetary control measures take effect and the productive sector responds to the support given to it. Then, the whole economy will enter into a period of stabilization and the GDP will grow at a higher rate.

Police Break Up Drug Ring, Seize Cocaine

PY1012212288 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 10 Dec 88 pp 54, 55

[Summary] The police narcotics division has broken up a drug ring and arrested seven people in Puerto Stroessner, Pedro Juan Caballero, and Asuncion. Those arrested are: Juan Bautista Centurion Vargas, a Paraguayan, 31, who lives in Asuncion; Aldo Luis Galeano Aguero, a Paraguayan, 29, who lives in Presidente Franco; Oscar Galeano Gimenez, 34, who lives in Puerto Stroessner; Adolfo Daniel Wormann More, a Paraguayan, 21, who lives in Pedro Juan Caballero; Carlos Benitez Benitez, a Paraguayan, 27, who lives in Pedro Juan Caballero; and the married couple Arnaldo Diosnel Gonzalez Lezcano and Teresa Dejesus Gonzalez de Gonzalez, 48 and 44, respectively, who live in Pedro Juan Caballero. The police also confiscated 3 kg of cocaine.

Peru

President Hails Gorbachev's Address to UN

PY0912175488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpts] President Alan Garcia today hailed Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's UN address regarding the Third World's unfair foreign debt problem. Garcia said that he is certain this message will help the United States and the wealthy countries reconsider their position regarding the debt, so that they will give better treatment to poorer nations and place more significance on the role played by the latter. The president also voiced his satisfaction that it has been admitted that nations have a right to restrict their foreign debt payments. Garcia spoke during a ceremony at Government House during which nonregistered vendors received the ownership certificate of a location known as El Hueco. [passage omitted]

[Begin Garcia recording] [passage omitted] At the United Nations yesterday, as the nations of the world assembled, Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who is transforming his country, made very important statements to the world. He said that the living conditions of tens of millions of people in our Third World have become a threat to mankind and its future. What we have repeatedly said is finally being understood, despite the fact that every time I said it, the opposition newspapers said: He is telling the same old story. (?Gorbachev) said that the accumulated debt cannot and should not be repaid or rescheduled on original terms, thus recognizing that the terms and interests originally agreed upon are not fair, and that the Latin American and Asian peoples cannot pay this debt without sacrificing their future. Gorbachev said that the USSR is ready to grant a moratorium of more than 100 years to Third World countries, and to pardon the debt owed by the poorest countries. This is what he said. He said that countries have a right to limit the servicing of their debt to their annual trade surplus. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Garcia Receives Soviet Fish Industry Minister

PY0812131688 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] Today President Alan Garcia met with a high-level Soviet delegation headed by Fish Industry Minister Nikolay Kotlyar and made up of Soviet Ambassador Anatoliy Filatov and (?Vladimir Burakovskiy), chief of the protocol department.

The Soviet minister, who recently signed a fishing cooperation agreement with Peru, said that the Soviet Union plans to intensify cooperation in educating consumers to use more fish products.

Garcia on Adjustment of Dollar Exchange Rate

PY1012200788 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Interview with President Alan Garcia by unidentified reporters in front of Government Palace in Lima; no date given; broadcast in progress—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Reporter]...intis. What does this mean? What can the people expect? Why do these things happen?

[Garcia] I believe this has been prompted by the uncertainty about the implementation of yet another general price adjustment.

As you know, the dollar exchange rate, gasoline prices, food prices, interest rates, and salaries were adjusted in September. These were described as economic shock measures. In November, another adjustment was made. The idea that the dollar exchange rate, interest rates, and food prices will be corrected sometime in December has spread among the people. This is not true. It is economically inadvisable and unnecessary. However, this idea was spread by some newspapers [words indistinct] gossip. Thus, some people prefer to buy dollars in case our currency is substantially devalued. I can tell you that it is definitely not necessary to devalue our currency.

The currency is devalued to allow exporters to pay the domestic production costs of the products they are exporting. This is why our currency was devalued in November. Nevertheless, it will not be necessary to adjust the dollar exchange rate in the near future. This will not take place this month and perhaps not even next month.

However, many people have been induced to believe that this week, today, the central bank president will resign, that the economy minister is not steady, and that another substantial devaluation, another general price increase will take place, and then the people rush to Ocona [currency black market in Lima].

The current exchange rate of 500 intis to the dollar is appropriate, and it does not make sense for some people to buy dollars for 1,000 and 1,100 intis on Paseo de la Republica Avenue, as I have seen. These people will end up losing on this speculation, on a soaring dollar that will plummet again. I remember that at one time in August the dollar, which was being sold at 150 intis on the street, soared to 300 and 350 intis, and then returned to 150 intis. At this time there is no economic reason for the dollar to soar.

We must implement drastic and useful adjustments to solve the problems little by little, and without causing a shock. An adjustment has already been made. There will not be any adjustments whatsoever this month. It does not make any sense to make further adjustments. [passage omitted]

Suspects in Naval Attache Death Arrested

PY0912212288 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] A dispatch from La Paz reports that two Peruvians were arrested today by the Bolivian police. They are suspected of killing the Peruvian Embassy Naval attache, the late Captain Juan Carlos Vega Llona.

Six Peruvian nationals were tested for traces of gunpowder on their hands. The police reported that the test was positive on two of them, Mariano Maquera and Maria Ines Quiste. According to the police, this is not sufficient evidence, because their physical features do not fit those described by witnesses to the killing.

Villanueva Seeks Media Support Against Terrorism

PY0912184188 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 0100 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Statement by Prime Minister Armando Villanueva "after a cabinet meeting," place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Villanueva] I want to report that terrorist actions have continued follwoing the assassination in La Paz of high-ranking Navy officer Vega Llona.

The targets of these terrorist actions have been electric towers. This is the reason why it will be impossible to normalize the operation of the power network and the water supply system tomorrow. Other towers have subsequently been blown up, as will be explained by the Energy and Mines Minister.

This confirms that the terrorist escalation continues. It also justifies the approval by Congress, and by the president, of the antiterrorist law.

It is important that the media and journalists—and I would like to make a call to them—become aware of the significance of the participation of the newspapers and the media in a nationwide campaign against terrorism, which has claimed the lives of not only humble people like governors, mayors, deputy prefects, prefects, civil authorities, and soldiers, but also of high-ranking military commanders. Terrorism is hindering our development. I would like to ask the media to actively cooperate with this struggle, which concerns all Peruvians. [passage omitted]

Shining Path Guerrillas Kill 2 More Engineers

PY1012205588 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1721 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Text] Lima, 10 Dec (EFE)—With the murder of two more engineers last Wednesday, 7 December—which was learned about only today in Lima—a total of six engineers have been murdered this week apparently by members of the Maoist Shining Path guerrilla movement. Four engineers, including two Frenchmen, were murdered last Sunday.

According to reports, a group of terrorists last Wednesday entered the locality of Situcancha, Junin Department, in the central mountain region of Peru, and gathered all the people at the main square. They forced Adolfo Spezua and Augusto Vilcahuman out of their offices and, after a "people's trial," shot them to death.

Last Sunday, terrorists murdered four engineers—two Peruvians and two Frenchmen—who were working in an agricultural development program in the small town of Aquira, in the southern department of Apurimac, where Shining Path terrorist activity is intense.

The French engineers were identified as Thomas Pellissier and Corine Seguin. The justice of the peace from Aquira was also murdered.

Moreover, five terrorists and an Army corporal were killed in a clash between terrorists and an Army patrol near the locality of Nanshuimpuquio, 41 km from the southern city of Ayacucho.

November was a particularly bloody month because of the political violence that caused the death of 403 people. Thirteen thousand people have been killed by Shining Path since the beginning of its activities in 1980.

Emergency State Declared in Several Provinces

PY0912201488 Lima Television Peruana in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Several provinces in the Ayacucho and Huanuco Departments were declared to be in a state of emergency, as of yesterday, for a 60-day period. This measure applies to the Provinces of Lucana, Farinacochas, and Paucar del Sarasara in the Ayacucho Department; and the Provinces of Pachitea, Huanuco, Dos de Mayo, Huamalies, and Maranhao in the Huanuco Department. Thus, constitutional guarantees are suspended, particularly those granted in paragraphs 7, 9, 10, and 20g of Article [number indistinct] of the Peruvian Constitution.

Former President Bustamante Hospitalized

PY1012212288 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1040 GMT 10 Dec 88

[Summary] Former Peruvian President Jose Luis Bustamante y Rivero, 94, has been taken to the Military Hospital heart unit due to heart problems. His condition is considered serious.

Electroperu Says Partial Outages To Continue

PY0912144688 Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 0930 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Text] Electroperu [Peruvian State Electric Power Enterprise] has announced that power outages will continue to affect Lima in the wake of the new terrorist attacks on the Mantaro power network. The attacks were staged when work being done to repair damage caused by terrorist actions on 2 and 3 December was almost complete.

Through a communique, Electroperu said that while the repair work is under way, there will be partial power outages in Lima and in coastal areas, adding that it is expected that the problem will be solved shortly.

Venezuela

Perez Asked To Mediate in Panamanian Crisis

PA0912171988 Buenos Aires REUTER in Spanish 0447 GMT 9 Dec 88

[Excerpts] Caracas, 8 Dec (REUTER)—A Panamanian opposition spokesman reported today that Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez recently met with Panamanian Government representatives to discuss a solution to the political crisis in that country.

Diogenes de la Rosa, former Panamanian ambassador to Venezuela, stated at a news conference that both those supporting Panamanian General Manuel Antonio Noriega and those opposing him believe Perez is a [words indistinct] to solve the Panamanian political crisis.

"All parties—both in the government and in the opposition—expect him (Perez) to take some sort of action before or after he assumes his post," De la Rosa said. [passage omitted]

According to De la Rosa, Perez met with a Panamanian Government delegation last month. The delegation was headed by Democratic Revolutionary Party President Carlos Duque and Major Daniel Delgado, who is the official liaison between the Panama Defense Forces and the political parties.

De la Rosa added that the delegation discussed with Perez a plan to extend the current Manuel Solis Palma administration for another 2 years. This plan would require reforming the Constitution and holding a constituent assembly. De la Rosa said the Venezuelan president-elect's reaction to this initiative was not known.

Jacinto Rivera, the Panamanian charge d'affaires in Venezuela, confirmed the meeting but refused to comment on the subjects discussed. [passage omitted]

Socialist Leaders Visit President-Elect

PA0912164988 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The work of the new administration at the parliamentary level will be within the framework of the country's new political picture. Venezuelan President-elect Carlos Andres Perez has said this situation will permit the continuation of the plans and programs put forward by the current administration. Perez made these statements after a visit by a MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] and MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] delegation.

The delegation that visited President-elect Perez this morning was headed by former MAS-MIR presidential candidate Teodoro Petkoff. He was accompanied by Pompeyo Marquez, Freddy Munoz, and Moises Moleiro. According to the socialist leaders, this was a courtesy call to congratulate the winner of the recent elections. Petkoff was asked many questions by reporters, however, because the party he represents doubled the number of its deputies in the National Congress, and there is the possibility that his party could seek an allaince with the Democratic Action party.

Petkoff stressed that the elections' preliminary results will help the MAS - MIR have a greater influence. Petkoff added that the party's main goal should be the approval of important reforms rather than speculating upon pacts and alliances.

[Begin Petkoff recording] The MAS will use all of its influence to make political reforms. The influence the party had before, which was less than what it has now, was used to further political reforms. Therefore, now that we have greater influence, we will use it to further the reforms that were already approved. When the new congressional sessions begin, we will have to approve amendments to the finance law, the situado law [ley de situado], and the law that transfers duties from the central power to the regional powers so that we can have elections for governors who would become real officials. We will also have to approve other political reforms, such as the judicial reforms and changes to the electoral law. We must approve reforms that strengthen the parliament. These are commitments of all Venezuelan political parties. I believe that none of them will backtrack. [end recording]

Perez described the socialist leaders's visit as important and interesting. He said it enhances his main proposal for a dialogue to reach agreements with all the country's sectors. Perez also gave his opinion on the new National Congress, which will be sworn in on 23 January.

[Begin recording] [Perez] This is in fact very important, and it is very interesting also. I said I hoped to have a majority in Congress. I repeat that it was a wish. However, I said that if I could not have this majority, there was no problem. My party would try to reach accords and understanding within the National Congress.

[Reporter] You love political reforms and experiments. But we would like to know if your government will have tripartite characteristics?

[Perez] I would say multipartite, because a concerted effort involves all groups. [end recording]

Perez, Gil To Visit Three OPEC Countries

PA0812172188 Caracas Venezolana de Television Canal 8 in Spanish 0000 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Report by Martin Pacheco; passages within quotation marks recorded]

[Text] President-elect Carlos Andres Perez begins a tour tomorrow to help the country comply with the latest OPEC agreements. President-elect Perez has numerous contacts in the Arab world, and his goal is to effectively implement the latest OPEC agreements signed in Vienna to balance the market, particularly concerning prices and production quotas.

Before assuming the presidency on 2 February 1989, Carlos Andres Perez will seek to reinvigorate a dialogue and restore discipline within the international oil cartel. This, in turn, will restore trust and normalcy in the market.

Energy and Mines Minister Julio Cesar Gil emphasized other aspects of the trip including visits to Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Algeria.

[Gil] "The tour will help improve Venezuela's image and strengthen our links with the Arab world. These ties are also important and we must emphasize them, no? Above all, the contact will help restore trust in the production agreement recently reached by the OPEC members."

The three nations to be visited by the president-elect are members—along with Venezuela—of the OPEC's Price Committee and Long-Term Strategies Committee. Therefore, positive results are expected to help stabilize the market.

President-elect Carlos Andres Perez will be accompanied by a delegation of oil experts. The delegation includes Energy and Mines Minister Julio Cesar Gil.

European Countries, Canada Planning To Invest

PA1012015388 Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 2 Dec 88 p D-4

[Summary] It was reported from the Miraflores Palace on 1 December that Spain's Foreign Bank [Banco Exterior], Canada's Export Corporation, and France's Paribas Bank have announced plans to invest $4 billion in Venezuela. It was also learned that J. Henry Schoroder Wagg, Ltd. will finance electricity-generating programs worth 145 billion bolivares. In addition, France's Societe General announced loans to Venezuela of more than 50 million bolivares and Berlin's Commercial Bank and Bordig Investment Corporation will lend 40.5 [not further specified] German marks. Venezuelan Treasury Minister Hector Hurtado said these loans will be used to finance energy production and industrial production expansion programs in Guayana, a drinking water system in Centro, Carabobo, and the continuation of the Yacambu-Quibor, and Uribante-Caparo projects.

Suriname

Arron-Led Delegation Ends Netherlands Visit

PM0712154488 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 5 Dec 88 p 3

[Unnamed "own correspondent" report: "Surinamese Development Plan Awaiting Political Approval"]

[Text] Schiphol/The Hague—The Surinamese Government expects to be able to present its Long-Term Development Plan at the beginning of next year. It will then be possible to complete the political discussion surrounding the document. The plan, in which the Arron government will set out its long-term plans in the field of social and economic policy, is of crucial importance for the full restoration of Netherlands development aid.

The Long-Term Development Plan is ready, but cannot yet be submitted to the Surinamese National Assembly, because the April 1987 Surinamese Constitution stipulates that the plan must first be submitted to the Council of State—a top-level body in which the military, industry, and commerce, for example, are represented. Problems with the composition of the council have meant that the Council of State has still not been installed.

However, it has become clear that the military will have one seat on the Council of State. This will be occupied by C. Mijnals, the former chairman of the VFB [25 February Movement], the military's political organization. Only after the Long-Term Development Plan has been discussed by the Council of State and the National Assembly can the plan be submitted to The Hague.

The Surinamese delegation which had talks last week with Prime Minister Lubbers, Foreign Minister Van den Broek, Development Cooperation Minister Bukman, and a number of Second Chamber deputies returned to Suriname Saturday [3 December]. The delegation, headed by Prime Minister Arron, considers that great progress was made last week in improving relations between the two countries.

The delegation considers the most important gain to be the fact that it is now clear that from the beginning of next year the Netherlands will resume its structural development aid to Suriname. Although this had already been promised by the Netherlands, there was some uncertainty on this point. Suriname is still owed 1.6 billion guilders by the Netherlands under the terms of the 1975 Development Agreement.

In Development Minister Bukman's budget for next year 200 million guilders have been set aside for Suriname. However, political circles in The Hague doubt whether this sum can actually be handed over. The fear persists that the Surinamese Government will not succeed in producing sound plans within the framework of the Long-Term Development Plan.

The Netherlands has promised Suriname 100 million guilders in budget aid for the period through 1 May next year. Agreement was only recently reached on the payment of this sum. Christian Democratic Appeal spokesman Aarts said: "When I see the slow pace at which the Surinamese plans for spending this money have been submitted, I am worried. How is it possible to give immediate approval to the structral aid? I am a little pessimistic about exactly when we will be able to see the long-term plan."

Surinamese Prime Minister and Vice President Arron admits that his government faces the prospect of a number of drastic interventions if Suriname is to achieve a sound social and economic climate. He said Saturday that he considers it "unfair" to ask the Surinamers living in the Netherlands to return en masse to their homeland. "We could not cope with such a stream at this moment."

Since the elections in November last year inflation has simply continued to rise in Suriname. The government is working on a devaluation of the Surinamese guilder and on a large number of unpopular reform measures. The swollen civil service, for example, will have to be drastically cut.

Refugees Want To Return From French Guiana

FL0812204688 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The Surinamese refugees in French Guiana want to return to Suriname under the condition that they must be [word indistinct] and their safety is guaranteed.

They stated this to (Philip Ottoman) representative for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (Ottoman) said that the UN High Commissioner for Refugees will call on the international community to finance the repatriation plans. He will pay orientation visits to Albina and Moengo to examine the [word indistinct] possibilities for the refugees. He will also hold discussions with ministries and organizations which are involved in the repatriation of the refugees.

Bouterse Warns of Army Unrest; Scores Lawsuits

PM0712154888 Rotterdam NRC HANDELSBLAD in Dutch 3 Dec 88 p 2

[Unnamed "own correspondent" dispatch: "Bouterse: Lawsuits Against the Military Causing Discord"]

[Text] Paramaribo, 3 Dec—Surinamese Army Commander Desi Bouterse yesterday proposed a moratorium on lawsuits against the military. He warned of unrest in the Army. Bouterse was speaking at the Memre Boekoe barracks. He pointed to the fact that the people made a choice in the 1987 elections.

Bouterse reminded his audience that the Army takes the view that there must be no negotiations with Ronnie Brunswijk's Jungle commando. However, the Committee of Christian Churches has already acted as a mediator between the rebels and the Surinamese Government. Bouterse called The Hague the political headquarters where decisions are made which influence what happens in Suriname.

He said that he could understand his men's feelings. "Because of inadequate legislation not a single terrorist has been sentenced, but soldiers who overstep the mark have been sentenced. A total of 111 terrorists have even been set free. The military is not allowed to break the law. The Army must keep to the law. However, this course of events has not satisfied the military's feelings of justice," Bouterse said.

He said that anyone from the Jungle Commando can run around freely in the Netherlands and even receive support, whereas a lieutenant is sentenced for the summary execution of a maroon suspected of being a terrorist. The military court gave him a 10-year prison sentence and determined that he could not serve in the Army for 15 years. This situation is causing unrest in the Army, Bouterse said. He said that the president, the vice president, and the National Assembly have been informed of this.

Thursday [1 December] it was announced that Major Laurens Neede has been removed from office with effect from 1 December "after facts came to light which point to the commission of actions which conflict with officer status." No indication was given of what these facts are.

Neede was a prominent figure in the 1980 coup and the subsequent military government. He was the spokesman for the junior officers who set up a trade union in 1979. He was a member of the Military Council which took over the leadership after the coup. Neede worked for a short time at the Surinamese Embassy in The Hague. In the past few years he has been head of the Bureau of Popular Mobilization. During the period of the military government he was one of its most prominent spokesmen and he always made every effort to defend the regime.

Activist Accused of Plotting Against Government

FL0812202688 Paramaribo International Service in English 1730 GMT 8 Dec 88

[Text] The Justice Department has yesterday ordered the tracking down and arrest of the so-called human rights activist Stanley Rensch. Rensch is suspected of plotting an armed interaction against the government.

The four terrorists who were arrested by the authorities last weekend have given statements indicating that Rensch has cooperated with the terrorist gang of Brunswijk. If Rensch is found guilty, he can be sentenced to 35 years in prison.

A few months ago, Rensch appointed himself as the authorized representative of the head chief of the (Saramacca) tribe, Aboikoni. [Words indistinct] could neither read nor write.

Rensch has been in Holland for some time now.